Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: What happened to the allotment made last year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The work was taken up this year. But the protection of Karinilams in Keechery which forms part of the Thottara Puncha scheme has been taken out of the estimate and that work is going to be executed early in 1119. In fact the work has been given on contract.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Before passing on, may I bring one grievance? Yesterday 11 questions have been answered and today 10 questions have been answered. Is it because of paucity of questions?

Mr. President: We have a large number of days in which questions can be answered.

General Discussion on the Budget—*(cont.)*

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Sir, I have the great authority of that eminent historian and philosopher, Edward Gibbon, that it is the duty of every member of a Legislature to indicate the rights of the people, and to fight for the redress of their grievances fearlessly and independently without love of favour and fear of frowns of which the last is often the lot of public workers. And, if, in my humble attempts I follow the words of that eminent writer, which every English parliamentarian has always done to the good of that great country. I do so not in a spirit of cavilling or destructive criticism. If pain is caused, it is as the pain caused by a surgeon's knife when he tries to conduct an operation for the good of the body physical and not that caused by a murderer who wants to kill the victim. Criticism, in the words of that great world leader Winston Churchil, is like pain; while, in the first case, it points out the disease in the body political, in the second it points out the disease in the body physical. And therefore if criticism comes from me, the Government should not take it amiss, but in a good spirit and welcome it rather than frown at me, for it is in the above spirit that it is offered. (A voice are you afraid of frowns). Frowns have always been my lot. So they pass me by as matters of usual occurrence.

When we at this time of stock-taking, go into an analysis and review of the affairs of Cochin, it is unwise, Sir, to ignore the progress and the level which the world has reached. Again to quote Winston Churchil, the world is now progressing at aeroplane speed and according to my humble self at radiography speed, to a future which once looked gloomy, but which today holds promise of a better world. To quote that other great world leader Roosevelt, the world is in the throes of a new birth and "Dr." Roosevelt and "Dr." Winston Churchil are standing by to effect a safe delivery of a hopeful and pretty child. And in this world of ours, which is changing fast we find that nowhere in America is there absolute monarchy. Nor is there in Europe a single autocrat except the great preuds "Caeaser", who has fallen and Hitler, who remains to share the inevitable fate of all dictators. The crowned heads there are few and among these few nobody survives except those who accept the supermacy of their parliaments; King George VI, Emperor of India, is the model for all, never going against the wishes of his parliament but abiding always by the dictates of that parliament which to His Majesty are dictates and therefore to his people are requests. Passing on to dark Africa, and to Australia, the child of England, Parliaments are supreme. Even ancient Asia, Russia, China and even lower down British India accept the sway of Parliaments. In Japan too Parliaments govern. So also in the Western States of Turkey, Iran and Iraq. Over the border in British Cochin they have got Provincial Autonomy. Beyond Shoranur, they have got the right of Responsible Government. Even the unruly tribes of the North West Frontier Province are now having Provincial Autonomy. Sind, where you hear of murders and slaughter, has been raised to that status. Cochin, which has always been flattered as one of the leading States in India in the matter of education, lags behind. She has no Provincial Autonomy. She has no Responsible Government. That is a matter which ought to engage our attention today when we view it in this world setting. Why should we not deserve responsible Government, Sir? Why should we not resolve the fate of Cochin when His Great Britannic Majesty leaves even his privy purse for the people to vote upon? Are we distrusted? What have we done to deserve this distrust? The Minister who is undoubtedly the non-official leader of this country behind whom we are, should ask this question to His Highness the Maharaja and in doing so he can speak as Gladstone spoke once "Your Highness, I am the people of Cochin". Is he not working the reforms with all his might and main in spite of perhaps the most insuperable difficulties which he has to face? Sir, the whole State is now hearing rumours of recommendations of our Diwan not being accepted and his schemes being turned down.

Mr. President: I would like to point out to the Hon'ble Member that I do not think this reference to be in order.

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Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I have always to abide by the ruling of the Chair as a Parliamentarian and I bow down to the Chair's orders.

Regarding the Minister, we understand, that his schemes are not put through. I ask the Hon'ble Minister—Sir, at least over him we have control—I ask the Hon'ble Minister why there is no Director of Agriculture here today. Why have you put a Veterinary men in charge of the Department?

Mr. President: We have a Director of Agriculture.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: That information is new.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: It was announced yesterday from the Chair that Mr. Sankara Menon has been appointed.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: The Veterinary people know all about grass and roots; why not they put a Veterinary man as the Head of the Agricultural Department?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Now the position is this, Sir, we hear of a scheme put up by the Hon'ble Minister for co-ordination of certain of his deparment not being put through. May I take it that the Hon'ble Minister is very comfortable in his seat?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Here?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: As Minister? The Minister has become simply an Inspector of the Heads of Departments, drawing greater bigger salaries than he, without power of removing them, without power to appoint them. He can't raise any money and has to act as a jackal to the Diwan, taking his leavings.

Mr. President: I would like to point out to the Hon'ble Member that this it is unparliamentary.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: It is perfectly parliamentary. It was so held by the speaker of the House of Parliament in 1884. I raise it on a point of order.

Mr. President: You just now said that the world was progressing at aeroplane speed?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: In the direction of greater freedom and not the other way. I may point out to the chair that in the year 1884 the point was raised by Lord Randolph Churchill and it was held to be quite parliamentary when it was used in the figurative sense. Joseph Chamberlian once used the word Hyaena in the figurative sense. I do not for a moment say that the Hon'ble Minister is a jackal, but in a figuartive sense only I used the word. I am only attacking the system under which the Minister is asked to govern several transferred departments without having any control over the purse. So, that is the state of affairs in Cochin. I therefore say that the earliest possible opportunity should be taken to transfer real power to the Minister. The time is not far off when Cochin will have to face the immediate problem of food for all and the ultimate problem of meeting the demands of lakhs of young men now in the Forces and the Labour Corps, men who have been imbued with a new spirit and a new idea wisely proclaimed by our great leaders Roosevelt and Churchill. These are the two problems which are confronting us and in this juncture I would appeal to the House to raise a voice of unanimity in demanding responsible government under the aegis of the Maharaja under the aegis of His Majesty the King Emperor. Nothing more. And I am within the four corners of the law when I make this demand, which demand has come as a hardy annual every time in this Council year in and year out, of which the Hon'ble the Deputy President remarked before your predecessor was in office, that it was scoffed at as a flower good for looking at, but which may wither and fall away, in reply to which a great and eloquent speaker like the then Diwan on the spur of the moment remarked—that it is a flower which will bring forth a luscious fruit. Sir, the flower is withering away. It is about to fall down. The fruit has not come. The demand then was to nurse the tree. We have manured and watered the tree by servile observance of the rules of diarchy. No Cochinite has ever rebelled against the system till this day and the Minister has, amidst insults and injury, carried on with it. All our Ministers have done so. Have we not nursed and manured the tree? Have we not watered it with our tears? And now the flower is withering. 89 Acts and Proclamations have been passed over our heads.

Mr. President: I would like to point out that those were under the Defence of India Act and Rules.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Are they not Acts and Proclamations still? We are not doing a single act which the Government have forbidden. Never was there a more docile House, a more responsive house and we are going to be responsive to the sweet or to the bitter

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end. Sir, you can take it from me that the Cochinites, are a law-abiding people. We have been responsible, we will be responsible, we expect the Government to be responsible and responsive. In this spirit I may also say that lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been spent without consulting the House. While the Chalakudi Anamalais Road Scheme was placed before the Council, the Hill Paddy Scheme was not shown to us at all. It leaves me cold, Sir, that the Hill Paddy Scheme has been transferred to the Minister now. There is nothing left in it. Therefore, I would appeal to the House and to the Government that an early response to this cry, this unanimous cry for the past decade or more, is met with sympathy and kindness, lest, the people go beyond the borders which they have set before themselves. Now, Sir, I ask the question as to whether Sind is more advanced than Cochin, whether the North West Frontier Province is more advanced than Cochin, and whether Assam is more advanced than Cochin ?

It is a waste of effort to go into a criticism of the budget for the reasons mentioned by me. Still, Sir, I may say, in passing that the best and the soundest canon for examining a budget is this "from everyone according to his ability and to everyone according to his need." That ought to be the principle. Yet in the words of our Comptroller of Accounts, the peasants' tax, the land revenue and the revenue from abkari, together come to 28 lakhs of rupees. I have raised this question by a cut-motion that producers of food crops should be exempted from taxation if they get an income below at least Rs. 600.

Mr. President : I would remind the Hon'ble Member that I said in my speech that in this State the land revenue comes only to 6 per cent of the total receipts while in Madras it is more.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I understand. My point is that when you are excluding a trader, a Vakil, a Government servant who gets less than Rs. 2,000, from all taxes, you are taxing the peasant who is raising 4 paras of paddy from a para of paddy field. Is it just ? I therefore say, Sir, that agricultural incomes below a certain level, make it 300, or make it 600, should be exempt from all taxes. Imagine, Sir, a country in which there are no agriculturists ! Will a lawyer get on, will a professor get on, will a medical man get on, will anybody get on without the agriculturist ? Like the bee who gathers all the honey and is driven away from it, these poor agriculturists raise the crops and are not allowed to enjoy the fruit of their labour. You protect the trader, you protect the Government servant, who gets less than Rs. 2,000, but no protection is given to the agriculturists.

Mr. President : You say we should adopt a scheme of land-tax in comparison with the income-tax ?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* No—my point is that small incomes should be exempted from tax.

Now I come to Abkari. The Excise Commissioner is taking 16 lakhs and 52 thousand rupees from toddy, arrack, etc., from those who are buying it. Toddy is sold at about 3 annas for every bottle of which at least 2 annas is tax. In other words, when a bottle of toddy is sold, the Excise Commissioner says "give me two annas if you drink a bottle of toddy" when we have here the pussyfoot of Salem who worked prohibition in that district. I say, stop the tax if toddy is good. Let us all drink plenty of toddy ; if toddy is not good, prohibit it. Clear and simple. In fact I could enlarge upon the evils of toddy drinking. That will be rather amusing and sometimes annoying. I won't go into that now. You will find you are collecting at least 10 rupees per drinker if you divide the income by the actual number of drinkers because it is not everybody who drinks. When we reflect seriously that the average income of an Indian is 22 rupees, there cannot be a greater injustice.

The next point which deserves attention is the post-war problem. I said lakhs of young men will be returning from the war and the Labour Forces, imbued with a new spirit and minds full of the doctrines preached by Roosevelt and Churchill, and demanding the four freedoms and especially the freedom from want. How are you going to meet that cry ? Can you afford to keep that one lakh of people unemployed ? Will they not be a terror to the country if they are kept unemployed ? My motion for a scheme of post-war problemes met with the sauve remarks of the Government Secretary that all these are being considered. I would appeal to the Government to immediately go into the question and prepare schemes. Increase your food production. Go to the deep sea, bring all the gigantic fishes there for us to eat ; let there be plenty. Go to the plains ; intensify cultivation ; give more manure ; more demonstration farms ; remove for ever the middle man in agriculture. And then go to the hills ; plant the foot-hills with food crops and the high lands with tea, coffee, cardamom, and give employment to thousands. As a planter,

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I say, that is an industry that can be easily developed. The land here is very suitable. We have got over 500 square miles of forest land in the Cochin State while Travancore which is five times as big as Cochin State has only 2000 miles as forest area. Take a hundred square miles out. There is going to be no harm. The hills are not going to come down upon us. Especially in the cultivation of cardamoms and crops like that, the forests will not be disturbed. The hills are not going to become denuded and waste in case they are planted. We have already planted some areas and there has been no trouble. The Anamalais does not come down. Assam has not become a desert. We have only some 2000 acres under tea. Ceylon has got about 15,000 now and Travancore has got over 30,000 acres. In the future world economy self-sufficiency will be unfashionable. We will produce cardamom, tea, coffee and rubber. Burma will give us rice. Hitler is only a passing phenomenon. The decline and fall of the Roman Empire is almost complete. The chances for a peaceful world are clear. In the new economy those countries which are fit to produce certain commodities should produce and distribute them to the rest. Let us receive from them what we need and give them what we have. I would therefore ask the Government to develop the planting industry, and solve our post-war problems.

And now, Sir, to parody that great world leader, Churchill, let us then to the task, drag the seas, cultivate our fields, plant the hills, industrialise the land and let us have a glorious country, fit to be called the Queen of the Arabian Sea in which there is no want, there is no dearth, where there is no rich and there is no poor, a land fit for heroes to live in.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulankunnathukavu)*: Mr. President, Sir at the very outset, it is my humble duty to congratulate His Highness the Maharaja and to thank him most gratefully for the Proclamation that was issued to us a couple of days ago. His Highness I need hardly submit to this Hon'ble House has from the date of his ascending the Musnad been considerate and sympathetic towards the aspirations of the agrarian population in general *(Hear, hear)* and particular. All other aspects of his administration would have had more far reaching effects but for the very trebulous times and tribulations that the State is undergoing. My humble thanks are due, on behalf of myself and the constituency I represent in particular and the Cochinites in general to you, Sir, not on one ground only but on two main important counts. The question of food-stuffs—in the State, as we are now in possession of facts and figures will be seen to be having sufficient even on starvation lines rather than on supply lines. With that background your strenuous efforts for getting the present food supply is an achievement which will ever be remembered by the Cochinites with all solace, consolation and graceful memory. But for the strenuous efforts and your persuasions with the Governments of India, I am sure, the question of starvation would have stared us more seriously in the face and with results far more calamitous than could be anticipated. The second point on which I would congratulate you, Sir, is the appreciation of the sportsman, the necessity of sports and exercises in institutions. It is a calamitous truth that many a youth who actually prepared to go on service under His Majesty's colours was returned for want of the necessary physique, a very very deplorable fact that a high percentage of them had to come back for want of physique for Military training. I make bold to submit that it is not disinclination of the youth to resort to sports or exercises, but the want of the necessary ground-work for the same. I am extremely glad, Sir, that your attention has been drawn to this question and the necessary measures have been taken for the purpose of seeing that it becomes an institution in the very near future. I have also, before I enter upon the discussion of the budget, to thank the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development for the multifarious activities which he has shouldered during the Food Production Campaign and also for the success of the same. His spirit of co-operation and persuasion have been mainly responsible for the success which we now see in the administration of the Departments under his care.

Passing on to the budget, Sir, I do not propose to deal at length upon the details or many aspects of the budget which are probably within the province of persons who are students of political economy better equipped than myself. I would submit that on the very face of it, in the preparation of the budget I do not find any proportion or fixed basis for bifurcation of the votables and non-votables. To my mind no fixed principles seem to have been adopted. A reading of the budget does not give me any indication as to what percentage is made votable in any section, or non-votable in any other. My only submission is considering the advance of times, and democracy that we are seeking and the principle that the strength of the Government ought to lie upon the will of the people, I would respectfully submit that the non-votable items may be reduced to the irreducible minimum, the right of course and the prerogative of the Crown remaining untouched.

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I pass on to the receipt side and I would make only a few remarks upon some of the heads leaving others ; on which not that I have not anything to submit but that I do not consider it so serious ; nor is the time allowed to me sufficient for the purpose. I would respectfully submit to this Hon'ble House that the exhilarating figures presented by the Hon'ble Finance Member on the Excise revenue is far, far disparaging on the ground of morals than anything else. A large portion of the excise revenue as is well known to the Hon'ble Members of this House comes from ganja, arrack, toddy, and opium. Those commodities are detested by the general public and sought to be as much reduced in consumption as possible. No doubt, the huge figures of revenue under that head will have to be made up and supplemented. Without flattery, it was our fervent hope that coming as you do from an administration of a district where prohibition was worked to the greatest success under the regime of Mr. Rajagopalachariar, the Minister of Madras, we will have an example and something will be done to stop that trade. I do not for a moment blame or condemn, or criticise you, because I am fully aware that your time was entirely taken up by far more serious questions, the war, and none the less important, the food situation. That must certainly have embarrassed not only the administration and the administrator, Sir, but every authority in power whose responsibility it was to look after the same. It has been the plight of Cochinites either by chance or by choice not to have the fruits of the capacity of that personality who is most competent to do it and my only prayer and my request to you, Sir, is that ere long though you part and you leave the State, you will leave the ground-work, the foundation-stone on which your successor may be able to build up the structure of prohibition to the success and well-being of the State.

I pass on, Sir, to one more subject on the Excise head that is, the income from tobacco which is a very very high figure ; and though it is certainly very remunerative to the State, I would respectfully submit to this Hon'ble House that it is an indirect taxation which of late has come to be placed on the head of every subject. Though I may not be justified in calling tobacco a necessary of life, it will certainly be considered by every Hon'ble Member of this House as well as 90 per cent of the subjects outside, that it has come by a long addicted practice on a par with necessaries of life at least like kerosene or sugar, and I would submit that that it is an item of taxation which ought to be removed at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. President : May I remind the Hon'ble member to one fact. I think I am right in saying that the Tobacco Taxation Act has only recently been introduced by the Government of India.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu) :* I am aware of that, and that is why I lay more stress upon the point. The Tobacco Act that has imposed a tax upon tobacco in British India makes it all the more incumbent that it should be taken away from here, since we are double tax-payers. The tax is paid in British India and a super-tax is paid upon the same. That is all the more reason, I submit, why it should be removed the earlier and not the later for it.

I pass on to the Food Department, and in that connection I have absolutely no complaint or comment to make upon the disbursement side; emergency and exigency measure as it is, nothing can be controlled in this expenditure. But I have to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House that as it now stands it appears to me a ceremonial of very very huge dimensions with all prospects of success, yet worked out without any centralised policy. I do not condemn for a moment the Director of Supplies or for the matter of that the executive Government; as I submitted, being a novel department it has all the defects and all the good qualities of a well-intentioned department; and in its working operation, charges are levelled by the Government against the people that there is want of co-operation, there is smuggling, there is secreting, there is hoarding for purposes of profiteering and running of black-markets.

Mr. President : I may make one remark without interruption. My allegations on those lines were not in respect of Cochin but in respect of other parts of India. My criticism regarding hoarding applies not to Cochin but to other parts of India.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu) :* I submit that it is as general as anything else and there is also the opposite charge against the administration that there is expropriation of property, that there is disproportionate and inequitable distribution of paddy, there is practical taking away of commodities for the State without proper payment. These are the complaints against the Government by the public. Of course, both sides are there, and it is for both sides to come to a compromise and to so arrange that the system may work with success. In this connection, Sir, I beg to remind once more this Hon'ble House that the chances of the

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next harvest are so near, and, as the Government were pleased on an earlier occasion to take proper steps for the control of the commodity and for its proper custody, the earliest steps may be taken in that line so that disappointment may be avoided in the end. I am also aware of the very hard troubles and difficulties that this administration had, to get at the returns of the crops of last Makaram and even then to supplement it from outside. The viruppu crop, as we call it in this place, is generally far more fruitful and will produce a larger return than the Makaram crop, and the proposed commandeering and taking stock of that commodity at the early stage may probably solve our food problem to a very great extent. I am not submitting that it will solve the entire problem, because the population and the amount of the returns will bear no comparison.

A word about the judiciary. I submit, Sir, that in the administration of Justice on the civil side, I find a curious and unhappy tendency of late on the part of the Government to remove efficient hands from the department to the prejudice of both the litigant public and the person concerned. Successful Judges with all the qualities of head and heart are shunted on to departments where their qualities are certainly of much use no doubt, but to the prejudice of the seat they leave and that is something which requires immediate attention of the Government. I may be pardoned, Sir, to make a personal reference in this matter. The Hon'ble Member for Revenue who sits now on the treasury was a gem of the judiciary bench *(hear, hear)*. I would respectfully submit that whatever may be the assets that may be realised from him as Diwan Peishkar both to the good of the State and to the good of the subject, the loss to the judiciary is something which we as practising lawyers, can best realise; and without flattery or favour or criticising the Government or even offering a mode of advise to the Government in the matter, I respectfully request that such transfers and shuntings on may at least hereafter be avoided.

On the criminal side, I submit, Sir, there is now of late a practice which has developed almost into a custom, of drafting on officers attached to the Police Department to the Magistracy, I do not for a moment have a word against the person or persons already recruited or to be recruited hereafter on any ground of personal disqualification. But I have to bring to your notice and to the notice of this Hon'ble House that confidence in justice, confidence in the due discharge of administration in the line of justice is the first stepping stone to a peaceful life and contented subject population. I would respectfully submit, Sir, that the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code with which you are certainly aware, do make provision for transfer of criminal cases where the person of the Magistrate is in the least prejudiced against the accused and for the matter of that, without rhyme or reason any number of petitions for transfer are the order of the day. That psychology behind the public, that psychology of the human-mind which dictates distrust, is the main ground work, I submit to this House that as a practice or as a precedent this should not be accepted and should be put a stop to forthwith. I have absolutely no complaint to make against any officer or any person concerned in the Magistracy till now appointed or sought to be appointed. I would only bring to the notice of the Government that the prosecution, as police call it, the Police are paid to represent the prosecution, and prosecution alone, immersed as these persons are, they become by long attachment or by short attachment, when they leave the department, like the grass-hopper upon the green plant, they would have the qualities of head and heart of the executive police much to the exclusion of the qualities of a judicial officer with a judicial mind which is expected of that officer. In this connection, I have also to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House that as of late—I do not say whether it has got anything in substance as a groundwork or not—in cases where cases are charged under the Defence of India Act and rules, there is a tendency or rather an accepted practice, from my experience of Magistrates, to enquire whether they have got the sanction of the charge officers for releasing the persons accused on bail. This is not only a trespass upon the judicial mind; but I submit, a real condemnation of justice, and takes away that conscientious trust in the liberty of the subject, realising the same to have been controlled by the executive police. Whether it is the dictate of the conscience of the officer or of circumstances, I do not know. Whatever it is, I would respectfully submit that these remarks of mine may bear fruit with the administration to remedy, this much condemned evil.

I have in sequence to pass on to the Jails. It pains me to submit that from personal information imparted to me at first hand which I deem reliable to the extreme, these institutions for correction have lately developed into centres of corruption. It is certainly painful, whether the magnitude or otherwise of it or the details of it on which I make this comment may not be exposed. I would request that you will, Sir, be pleased to order at an early date an enquiry into this matter which, of course, I need hardly submit, is a very serious concern both to the subject and to the administration.

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Mr. President : The Hon'ble member's time is almost up.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I beg to conclude with one or two constructive suggestions as the time is up and the Hon'ble Diwan President has been pleased to rule that the time is up. I would submit that the Government will be pleased in cogent pursuance of what was stated a day before, that is transferring the Hill Paddy Scheme to the Minister, as a natural corrollary that the major industries and the major irrigation works may also be transferred to him. It stands also to reason to submit that agriculture being a transferred subject, food which is the outcome of that should not be a reserved subject. Agriculturists must certainly have the control of food and the food control must be best vested in the person who knows what produce is, what quantity he can give and what quantity he can expect to realise.

I may conclude by once more thanking you for all your kindness and wishing that before you leave the State, we will have the first few-steps towards the realisation of my anticipations. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* In rising to offer certain criticisms about the general policy underlying the budget I have the happiness to observe that some of the recent measures taken by the Government have served to enhance the reputation of the administration. One of them, I am sure, would inspire the people with the confidence that the liberalising spirit that animated the grant of the political reforms still permeats the working of the constitution and would find its fullest expression in the near future.

It is needless for me to say—for the fact is known to all—that security of tenure is the greatest boon that can be conferred on the tenantry of the State, which the latest Proclamation has given to a substantial section of the tenants. I am sure that the Proclamation would earn for His Highness the everlasting gratitude of the Devaswam tenants. Another matter of importance is the rationing scheme and the food problem with its manifold complications. The Diwan referred in detail to the subject in his opening speech. It is a matter of credit to the Government that the rationing scheme practised in the State has become a model that has invited attention and is sought to be copied in other parts of the country. It would not have accomplished what it has but for the healthy atmosphere created by the campaign inaugurated by the Minister and carried on by the representatives of the people. But, I am afraid, it is too early to congratulate ourselves that the food problem is solved. The war is not yet over and although things for the moment may be going the Allies' way the enemy is by no means exhausted. His power is still unbroken. He is still a very formidable, dangerous and incalculable foe. Therefore we are not still completely out of the danger of a food crisis which threaten to engulf us at any moment. We could have achieved more and can hope to achieve more if some at least of the local officials charged with the duty of carrying out the rationing system shed off their red tapism. Even in ordinary times and ordinary governmental matters such tardiness is reprehensible and apt to stain the reputation of any administration. It is still more so during the period of a great catastrophe like the present war and especially in a matter which directly affects the very existence of the people. I do hope, Sir, that with greater enthusiasm, greater imagination and more common sense among the officials we would be able to make the scheme a complete success within the limit set by the availability of supplies.

The transfer of the scheme of paddy cultivation in the hills to the charge of the Minister is a recognition on the part of the authorities of the growing success of the dyarchy worked under the able guidanee of the Hon'ble T. K. Nayar. Given the necessary measure of public spirit, patriotic fervour, genuine sympathy in the fortunes of the people, he has shown what even dyarchy can achieve. In the encouraging statement of the Diwan yesterday we can see we are on the threshold of still greater changes and should be grateful to the Maharaja for nourishing the constitutional tree planted by a kind and noble-hearted Highness.

Sir, you would permit me to refer to a pressing problem that agitates the Muslim community. A great injustice has been done to them in the matter of appointments to the public services. All civilised constitutions are worked on the principle of recognizing the rights of minorities and their adequate representation in the public service, Muslims form 8 per cent of the State; but the percentage of representation conceded in their case is only 6 per cent. It is a most unfortunate fact that the community which has taken a very active part in enriching the trade and commerce of the State is not given even proportionate representation. A glance at the Civil List would show how miserably poor Muslim representation is. None of the key posts has ever been occupied by a Muslim subject of the State, none so far in the higher cadre of the Secretariat, Judiciary or other departments. "Thus

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far and no further" policy seems to be unfortunately operating in the case of incumbents already in the service and deserving promotion, though I admit that there has been lately one or two deviations. The working of the Staff Selection Board touches only a fringe of the administrative machinery and cannot in the nature of things be adequate to meet the legitimate demands of the Muslims. Even then the percentage has to be raised to conform at least to the proportion of Muslim population in the State. Besides this principle has to be extended to the lower as well as the higher ranks of public service, which are now outside the purview of the Staff Selection Board. It is only by making such a change in the policy of appointments can the crying grievance of Muslims be removed. No plea of the dearth of qualified Muslim candidates can be successfully raised at the present time, to reject the rightful claim of the Mussalmans. It is my earnest prayer that Government find their way to accept the representation made in the matter both in this House and outside and win the continued loyalty and support of His Highness' Muslim subjects.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Sir, after the able and versatile discussion of the budget by the Hon'ble Members of this House, much remains not to be said on the details. But I would like to make a few observations. As the debate was yesterday evening despite the intentional indifference of the Treasury Bench, I have not much to dwell upon the details. We the non-official members of this House do not think that the time and labour involved in this general discussion is not commensurate with the purpose served, to borrow an expression from the treasury. We are not Germans here to hurl bomb-shells on the treasury. Yesterday there was an emergency bomb-shell which was hurled by the Hon'ble Member for Nemmara and the Member for Medicines was conspicuously absent and our cry here seemed to be a cry in the wilderness. In and out of season, Sir, you have been encouraging general discussion from the non-official side and I am sure the members of the Treasury will have to take lessons from the courteous Diwan President. Now before proceeding to dwell upon some of the aspects placed before us, it was my idea as has been already done by the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu to congratulate His Highness for Royal Proclamation in regard to the Devaswam verumpattam tenants and also in regard to the transfer of the Hill Paddy Scheme to the Hon'ble Minister. Allow me Sir, to express my congratulations to His Highness for the release of the detenues in the jail. I may urge upon the Government to further release to remaining detenues and political prisoners. With this prolegomina I shall enter straight to the budget.

In regard to the 1119 budget I may preface my statement by saying that in these days it is very difficult to get it and more difficult to get honour and most difficult to get honest. I shall not dwell upon the various details. I shall not say much to substantiate my statement, I deal it to the imagination of the House. The hon'ble member, Mr. Mathai, referred to Gibbon, but I shall have to refer to Chanakkiya the Minister in regad to the budget. 'ആയം ഒഴുപാ, വ്യയം കൂടുതൽ" That is the postulate upon which the budget has been framed and that has been kept readily in view in regard to the budget of 1119. This budget has been characterised by the Finance Member as well as by the Diwan President as an inescapable budget. The Finance Member is even apprehensive of its prosperity. But let us console it is not an infallibility budget. Now traversing from the year 1108 to 1118 the peak surplus in the year 1108 was 23·28 lakhs. 1109 to 1118 were deficit years. In 1117 there was a surplus of 18·78 lakhs. At the close of the current year it is 30·66 lakhs. For 1118 it is 16·29 lakhs. On a comparison and with this back-ground I think there is no room for jubilation in regard to this year's budget, because in 1118 we had a surplus of 23·28 lakhs.

Mr. President: It is because in that year two years' customs revenues were received.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: The increase in 1118 was probably due to the customs, income-tax and other things and I find from 1118 that ·72 lakh has been the contribution from the British Government in regard to the Public Works. I do not know whether in 1109 we have received such a contribution in regard to Public Works from the British Government.

In regard to the increased expenditure upon which alone we, the non-official members have to dwell upon dearness allowance has been shown to be an item of expenditure. We have to congratulate the Diwan and the Government for giving increased dearness allowance to the Government servants.

Coming to the food position I shall not be misunderstood as euologising our Diwan at the most my euology will be considered only as massaging the legs of a sleeping man. The veracity contained in the dictum of Nepoleon that his army marched upon its stomach has been well

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understood by our Diwan. I would dub our Diwan as the 'Stomach Diwan' because he has very well understood that food is the principal thing for which the people have to agitate and in his speech I find that he has recognised that the peasants of this country are only now recovering from a long period of depression. Hence we can conclude that our Diwan has got a very generous mind in regard to the peasantry of our country and the untiring efforts of the Diwan and the Food Director must be made mention of on this occasion. Of course, there may be loopholes in the Supply Department. There may be accusations that Peter will have to be robbed to pay Paul. But such loopholes are inevitable and the best efforts I am sure are being made by the Diwan and Mr. Paul.

In regard to the T. A. set apart in the budget I have to make one observation and that is due to want of allotment the T. A. of certain officers, I understand, is being not allowed. For want of allotment T. A. should not be disallowed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There is no such case.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* I am sorry.

In regard to the daily allowance also there has been an increase and some agitation, I understand, is going on from the non-official side also for an increase of daily allowance in regard to the sitting of the Council.

Another feature which adorns the Budget of 1119 is the setting apart of two lakhs of rupees for rural development and the untiring efforts of the Hon'ble Minister will, I am sure, be crowned with complete success. Another Rs. 50,000 has been set apart for the Standard Cloth Scheme and in that respect also the Government has to be congratulated.

In regard to expenditure the Hon'ble Finance Member seems to be a bit anxious about the increased expenditure. Of course, on that score the Finance Member need not be anxious. Money has to be increasingly expended upon the head 'Education'. In regard to Ayurveda which is a favourite with our beloved Maharaja some money is set apart and we ought to be thankful to Sir K. Ravunni Menon and Sreemathi V. K. Lekshmikutty Naithiyaramma for the munificent donation which they have made for Ayurveda. In regard to Public Works also there is an additional expenditure. I find from the Budget that a tank is to be dug in Ernakulam. Ernakulam has already a tank and another additional tank is going to be dug. I hope some money will be set apart for Trichur for digging a tank.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* This tank in Ernakulam is not going to be made as an ordinary tank in the ground but it is a reservoir for storing Alwaye water.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* But there is a redeeming feature that the Diwan has allowed some money for the deepening of Trichur Canals and on this occasion I may remind the House of the keen necessity of solving the water problem in Trichur in the months of Kumbham, Meenam and Medam. In this connection I may also invite the attention of this House to the subtle difference which exists or not exists between minor irrigation and major irrigation. I do not know what difference there is between this minor irrigation and major irrigation. The safest way is to transfer the whole irrigation department to the Hon'ble Minister. It will be more feasible. In regard to the beggar question also an effective step has been taken and we shall expect the best out of that step. I shall speak little of Cranganur. In regard to the Port and Railway we are not allowed to touch on the fringes of it for security reasons and in regard to the departments of War Publicity and National War Front I think they are too fine to be touched upon. We have to congratulate Mr. Alagappan Chettiar for the munificent donation which he has made in regard to the War Publicity Department. The purpose for which this amount is to be utilised is to pupularise hand-pounding machines. If that is the view of the Publicity Department we have to congratulate that Department. Now in the Diwan's speech mention is made of opening two or three factories of which one is a button factory. This spirit of industrialisation is certainly to be encouraged.

Now I would like to say a word about the Kalamandalam at Cheruthuruthi. To my mind that is a real drain upon the State. My suggestion is that it may be clubbed with the Radha-Lekshmi Vilasam School at Trippunittura.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It cannot be taken away from those parts.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Then it may be shifted to Trichur.

Before I close let me say a word about the spread of cholera in our country. Effective measures were taken in the matter of plague and in the same way all possible measures may be taken to erradicate cholera.

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Finally, at page 20 of the memorandum put before us by the Finance Member with regard to the new items I find provision made for 30,000 rupees for interest on State Loans and Rs. 60,000 for salt Manufacture. Of course, it is a deviation from the previous budget and the expenditure is not too much as a matter of deviation. The Diwan is expecting as we all do that the war will end soon and it is in that view that a post-war development fund has been created.

Before I close, it is my duty to thank the Hon'ble President—the departing President may I say—and to pray for the long life and prosperity of His Highness the Maharaja.

Mr. K. J. Thomas *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur)*: Sir, it is a matter for congratulation that the budgetary position of our State is so satisfactory in these times of stress and strain ; but at the same time I should remark that, I for one, am not afraid of a deficit budget if the money is spent for nation-building. The reasons are not far to seek. The budget of a State is not like that of a family. The whole wealth of a State are at its disposal and any amount could be raised when the occasion arises provided that the state of the country and its peope is sound. With these general remarks, I may proceed straight to certain matters which deserve immediate consideration. I feel I will be failing in my duty if I do not point out to you certain constructive suggestions which I hope, will get the early attention of the Government.

In the first place, great care should be bestowed in commandeering the paddy produced by the cultivators. Unless sufficient paddy is left to them for their maintenance and their families, a feeling of indifference will gradually creep over them and the result will be like starving a hen which lays eggs. I fear that their efforts in the direction of food production slacken and the production of paddy may decrease as a result. Agricultural labour also should be maintained at a proper level of efficiency and the labourers should either be given at least two units a day during working days or a sufficient quantity should be left with the farmers for that purpose. I can boldly assert that agricultural labour has become very inefficient and not even 50 per cent of the quantity of work turned out in pre-scarcity days can be got out of them. It should also be borne in mind that sufficient paddy for seeds also should be left with the farmer. With the repeated failures of sowings, the farmers of the backwater areas have to sow twice or thrice to raise enough paddy seedlings to fill the fields. A double allowance is at least that is required.

Secondly the price of paddy now offered by the Government is hopelessly inadequate. Agricultural labour in the coastal areas which was obtainable in pre-war days at 5 annas per day has now gone up to a rupee and a quarter. Paddy seedlings which had to be purchased wherever possible due to failure of sowings has gone up from a rupee per 1,000 sheaves to eight rupees. A para of paddy field requires at least a 1,000 sheaves and therefore the cost of raising a crop on a para of paddy field is Rs. 12 and more. A para of paddy field yielding on an average only six to seven paras of paddy, and price of paddy being fixed at a rupee and four annas per para the work of a paddy grower is a thankless and often a losing concern especially when there is even partial failure of crops which is not a rare occurrence. I would therefore respectfully suggest at least a rupee and three quarters for a para of paddy. The raising of the price of paddy will therefore revive the dropping spirit of the farmers besides acting a sure check on smuggling out of the State which goes on unchecked in the villages of my constituency which borders on the Travancore State.

In this connection I may say that in discriminate recruitment of agricultural labour has left the farmers no climbers to pluck cocoanuts, nor labourers to work the fields with the result that wages are ever on the increase. Great care should therefore be bestowed on recruiting agricultural labour for other purposes.

The next matter which deserves attention is in the matter of sugar distribution in rural areas. According to the prevailing practice a quota of two pounds of sugar is given to every householder irrespective of the question whether he wants it or not. Sugar as we all know is a luxury and many a rural dweller does not buy it at all. They now sell their quotas and it is an open secret that a sugar quota right for a pound is now selling at 5 annas per pound. Adventurous people buy up the sugar and either sell in the black market or smuggle it across the borders to British Cochin or Travancore. While the poorer classes do not want sugar, a well-to-do man is starved of sugar and he is forced into the black market which is developing beyond all proportions. My suggestion that a pound of sugar may be allotted to every house-holder and greater quotas may be allotted to people in the higher strata of society.

The next need of my constituency is the development of the Vypeen Pallippuram Road. I am not unmindful of the fact that a sum of Rs. 30,000 has been allotted for it but the

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Engineering Department is pleading the high cost of materials as an excuse for not taking up the work. While not entering upon the doubtful wisdom of putting off a work of such great utility, I here wish to point out that there is not even a foot-tract between Vypeen and Elankunnapuzha. The reasons advanced need not stand in the way of acquiring the road track and clearing it and leaving it open so that people need not beg for a right of way from one house to another lodging between houses and trees. This matter will I hope receive the attention of the Chief Engineer and that the acquisition work will be taken up immediately.

The plight of the aided school teacher is also a matter which deserves attention. It is well-known that their lot is difficult. Very often they get only the grant given to them which is only 13 or 14 annas in the rupee or even less in the case of untrained teachers. It is also wellknown that the prospects of pension do not lie before them. It is therefore a pity that the dearness allowance sanctioned to the teachers in the Government service is not given to them. All that they get is Rs. 2 per mensem, which cannot even fetch them a dhoti in these days.

The question of a supply of pure drinking water is of paramount importance in the coastal areas. I am glad that the Government are trying to solve the problem but greater vigour should be shown in this matter. In these days when epidemics are vaging over the land adequate supply of good drinking water is of prime importance and I hope that the Government will not slacken its laudable effort in this direction.

These, Sir, are only some of the many needs of my constituency which lies mostly in the backwater areas, which are most disadvantageously placed in the matter of food supplies and even water. I hope that my cry will not be a cry in the wilderness but that will receive the solicitious attention of the Government. In that faith and hope I resume my seat.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: I may be pardoned if I begin my speech by saying that I cannot congratulate the Government on what it calls a surplus Budget. A surplus budget deserves to be called by that name only if it shows a surplus after making full and ample provisions for all reasonable and usual items of expenditure on the various departments and not when it manages to show a surplus after stinging in directions in which liberality is called for. The amount allotted for road maintenancy is not sufficient. The transport of heavy war materials have increased the traffic a great deal and unless more money is spent our roads will become useless very soon. Again the amount allotted for medical purposes is not at all satisfactory. What is the excuse for not granting the subordinate servants of the Government a dearness allowance in proportion to the necessities consequent on the increased cost of living. The index of living has trebled and their work also has increased tremendously. Government all along were saying that they were providing their servants a competence which places them above their material wants. How can they hope their servants in these times of distress to lead a life on their present salaries free from and free from temptations passes comprehension. It is very dangerous to have a discontented public service. Already the cry is heard that corruption is fast creeping into the public services. More from the surplus ought to have been allotted for this which forms the backbone of public safety. Let me pass on to the way in which our timber resources are being disposed of. Allow me to say at the outset that I entirely agree that as much timber as we can afford to place at the disposal of the Supply Department of the Government of India should be so placed for war-purposes. But I object to the sale on low or sub-normal rates. Teak is supplied at less than Rs. 30 or 25 per candy. If I am wrong I hope the Conservator will correct me.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: The price ranges from Rs. 25 to about Rs. 50. The maximum comes up to Rs. 3—14—0 a cubic foot.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Even the rejections after their selection fetches between Rs. 70 and 100 per candy at public auctions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether the information supplied by the Conservator that the maximum price is only Rs. 50 per candy is correct? It is much lower than the price realised in various auctions conducted by him.

Mr. President: I can explain the reason for that. Due to the loss of Burma there is a great scarcity of timber in the ordinary market and the result of the shortage has been a great increase in the price in the black-market. The Supply Department require timber in large quantities for war purposes, especially in the Middle East where there is no timber and where there are military campaigns we must give timber. So we have to sell this timber at a reasonable rate to the Supply Department. I think our rate is slightly above the Madras rate. Our rate, we consider is reasonable.

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Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: Yes, that is so. I shall explain the position in greater detail when I introduce the Forest Budget.

Mr. President: I have given the opportunity to the Conservator to introduce his budget earlier this time than usual so that he may explain the working of the Department especially as this is the last year of his office as Conservator.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: What is the rate in Travancore?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: Though I have not got the exact figures here, I may state generally that there is practically no appreciable difference between the rates we are getting and those given in Travancore.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: I do not object to the supply of timber to the War Department. We must supply as much as possible. What I say is it must be sold at reasonable rates. The rejections fetch Rs. 70 to Rs. 100. So the proper method ought to be sale at proper rates, a realisation of a portion of the value at Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 and the grant of the balance as our contribution to the war fund in some shape or other. This alone will enable future generations to evaluate the true worth of our contributions to the general war effort. Thus valued I have reasons to think that Cochin will take the leading place in respect of war contributions also among all the States in India.

Let me pass on to another important matter. I may remind you, Sir, that not long after you entered on duties as Diwan of the State you set up a precedent and a highly desirable precedent of eliciting the opinion of this Council and getting their approval to schemes of some magnitude. I refer to the Anamalai Road scheme and you got the unanimous support of this House. We expected, I may say we fondly hoped, that the practice will be followed on subsequent occasions too. Now I ask, why is this forgotten when the State entered into two schemes of vital importance to the State as the Food Control Scheme and the Hill Paddy Scheme. Speaking of Hill Paddy Scheme it may or may not turn out to be financially a sound one. But I fully believe that if the matter had been placed before this House many of us would have been in a position to offer constructive proposals calculated to lessen the cost and guarantee its success. With respect of the other schemes while I fully realise the great efforts which you have made to relieve distress in the State and to present famine conditions here, I am in duty bound to inform you that the way in which the scheme is worked by the innumerable officers appointed has been largely a failure. In a recent notification I remember the Government to have stated that this State produces rice sufficient to last its requirements for 8 or 9 months. Excepting some damage to the Kole crops this year there has been no failure or widespread damage to the Virippu and Mundakan crops. You have by your personal and constant efforts succeeded in getting us quotas of rice from Madras and Imperial Governments. The food production drive recently launched by Government has added to the new areas of paddy cultivation to some extent and to a very large extent areas under tapioca cultivation. The calculation in the said notification is I believe based on one nali per each individual.

Mr. President: When that statement was made we had no detailed information. But now after a detailed study of the position I can say that the State produces for 7 months.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: In addition to that we are now getting quotas from the Madras and other Governments.

Mr. President: The quota of an individual per annum will be 231 lbs.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: But recently the ration has been reduced by half.

Mr. President: We require 150 thousand tons a year and we grow about 80 thousand tons. Normally it was 67 thousand tons.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: The calculation was 1 nali per head per day and now it has been reduced.

Mr. President: We had asked for 71 thousand tons and we got only 25 thousand tons.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: When we have got for 7 months and when he ration is reduced by half it will last for 14 months.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The Hon'ble Member is confusing between this Nali and Pound. One pound is equal to half a Cochi Nali. We said 7 months going by the figure of the Madras Government which is 224·9 lbs per head. Here it is

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230 lbs. for one year for an individual. That will not amount to one Kochi Nali per head as the Hon'ble Member presumes. It will be less.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: I said Azhuvan Nali.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: If you work it out in Nalis it will not be 1 Nali per head.

Mr. President: I am sorry I have to interrupt the hon'ble member's speech. We will now rise for lunch.

The House rose at 1-30 and re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 p.m. with Mrs. A.N. Menon in the Chair.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: സർ, ഈ നിയമസഭയുടെ ഹ്രസ്വ ദീർഘ സംവത്സര ജീവിതത്തിന്റെശേഷം ഇദംപ്രഥമമായി ഈ സഭയിലെ ഒരു വനിതാംഗത്തിന്നു അഗ്രാസനാധിപത്യം വഹിപ്പാൻ സംഗതിവന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ആ സ്ഥാനം വഹിപ്പാൻ ഭാഗ്യമുണ്ടായ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഏറണാകുളം വനിതാ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ പ്രതിനിധിയായ പാനൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷക്കു ഞാൻ സവ്വ മംഗളങ്ങളും ആശംസിക്കുകയും അവരെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

സർ, പ്രൈസുകൺട്രോൾ സിസ്റ്റത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണു ഞാൻ സംസാരിച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയിരുന്നതു്. ആ സിസ്റ്റം ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ വളരെ ശോചനീയസ്ഥിതിയാണു് വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഹജൂരിലുള്ള ക്ലാക്കുമാരേയും സൂപ്രണ്ടുമാരേയും ഫീൽഡു ആപ്പീസ്സർമാരായും പർച്ചെയിസിംഗ് ആപ്പീസ്സർമാരായും കൺട്രോൾ ആപ്പീസ്സർമാരായും പെട്ടെന്നു നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ അവക്കു ഈ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതി യാതൊന്നും അറിവില്ലാതെവരുകയും ഒരു കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ അതിൽനിന്നു എത്ര നെല്ലുകിട്ടുമെന്നൊ ഇന്ന കൃഷിക്കു ഇത്ര വിത്തുവേണമെന്നൊ കൃഷിപ്പണിക്കു എത്ര നെല്ലു ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നൊ കൃഷിക്കാരന്റെ കുടുംബത്തേക്കു എത്ര നെല്ലു വേണമേന്നൊ യാതൊന്നും അറിവില്ലാതെ വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു അവർ നെല്ലു വാങ്ങുവാൻ ചെല്ലുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അതിനു അവിടെ റവന്യു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ കീഴിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ അഭയംപ്രാപിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണു് വരുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ റവന്യു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വളരെക്കാലം അവിടെയിരുന്നു ജോലിചെയ്തു പരിചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരായതുകൊണ്ടു് അവക്കു അതിനു ധാരാളം സാമർത്ഥ്യം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നതു് എല്ലാവക്കും അറിയാവുന്ന ഒരു വിഷയമാണു്. ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ അവർ ശരണം പ്രാപിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിലുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഭവിഷ്യത്തുകൾ എന്താണെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അധികം നെല്ലുണ്ടാകുന്നവരുടെ നെല്ലു മുഴവൻ എടുക്കാതെയും ചുരുക്കം ചിലരുടെ നെല്ലു മുഴവൻ എടുത്തും കുറച്ചു കൃഷിയുള്ളവരുടെ നെല്ലുപോലും മുഴവനും എടുത്തതായും മറവുള്ള പലെ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളും ഇതിൽ വന്നുകൂടുന്നുണ്ടു്. ചിലരുടെ വിത്തു നെല്ലുപോലും ഇങ്ങിനെ കമാണ്ടിയർ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു് (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ) ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് കൺട്രോൾസിസ്റ്റം ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നല്ല ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. വില്ലേജിൽ പരിചയമുള്ള മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണു് ഇതു ചെയ്യുന്നതെങ്കിൽ വലിയ ആക്ഷേപത്തിനു അവകാശമുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. ഇതു വളരെ ശ്രദ്ധയോടും ക്ഷമയോടും നടത്തിയിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശത്തിനു വിപരീതമായ ഫലങ്ങളുണ്ടാകുമെന്നും അതുനിമിത്തം വളരെ ആപത്തുകളുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുമാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇതു ശരിക്കു നടത്തുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനു വളരെ ഉദാഹരണങ്ങൾ എനിക്കു പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. അവരവരുടെ നിത്യജീവിതത്തിനു വേണ്ടതായ നെല്ലുംകൂടി സൂക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ സമ്മതിക്കാതെ നിർബ്ബന്ധമായി എടുത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ള വിവരവും എനിക്കറിവുള്ളതാണു്. വളരെ ആളുകൾ നെല്ല കളവായി സൂക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനേയും എനിക്കറിയാം. എന്നാൽ കൃത്രിമമായി നെല്ല സൂക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെപേരു് പുറത്തു പറയരുതൊ എന്നു ചോദിക്കുമായിരിക്കാം. അതു പറഞ്ഞാൽ വളരെ ആപത്തുകൾ വരുവാനിടയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല.

ഗവമെണ്ടു് അരി വിതരണത്തിനു ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ് ഷാപ്പുകൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അരി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു കാർഡുസിസ്റ്റവും വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കാർഡുകൊണ്ടു ചെല്ലുന്നവക്കു അരി കൊടുക്കയുള്ളു. എന്നാൽ സാധുക്കൾ ദിവസേന കാർഡു കയ്യിലെടുത്തുംകൊണ്ടാണു അരി വാങ്ങുന്നതിനു പോകുന്നതു്. അവക്കു അരി വാങ്ങുവാൻ പോകുമ്പോൾ കാർഡു സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കയില്ല. കാർഡു കേടുവരാതെ പോക്കറ്റിലിട്ടു കൊണ്ടുപോകാനാണെങ്കിൽ അവക്കു ക്ഷീണമുണ്ടാകയില്ല. വീട്ടിൽ ചെന്നാൽ അതു സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവെക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രത്യേകം അലമാരിയും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയില്ല. ചിലപ്പോൾ ആ കാർഡു മഷിഞ്ഞു കേടുവ

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ന്നിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. മുഴിഞ്ഞ കാർഡുംകൊണ്ടു ഷാപ്പിൽ ചെന്നാൽ അരി തരുകയില്ല; അരി വേണമെങ്കിൽ നല്ല കാർഡു കൊണ്ടുവരിക എന്നു പറയും. കേടുവന്ന കാർഡു മാറ്റി പുതിയ കാർഡു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ ൨ ണ. സ്റ്റാമ്പൊട്ടിച്ചു് പെറ്റീഷൻ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു് നിയമം. കേടുവന്ന കാർഡു മാറ്റി കിട്ടുന്നതിനു ഹരജി കൊടുത്തിട്ടു ൨൫ ദിവസത്തോളം പുതിയ കാർഡു കിട്ടുവാൻ താമസിച്ചുതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഫീൽഡാപ്പീസ്സർമാരാണു് കാർഡു മാറ്റി കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. ൨൫ ദിവസം ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു ഫീൽഡാപ്പീസ്സർ ചെല്ലാതിരുന്ന വിവരം എനിക്കറിയാം. കാർഡു കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ അരി കിട്ടാതെ വളരെ ആളുകൾ മടങ്ങി പോകുന്നതായി ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒരവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഒരു ഷാപ്പിൽ കയറിച്ചെല്ലുകയുണ്ടായി. അപ്പോൾ ഞാനാണു് ഫീൽഡാപ്പീസ്സർ എന്നു തെറ്റിദ്ധരിച്ചു അസംഖ്യം ആളുകൾ കാർഡു മാറ്റി കിട്ടുന്നതിന്നായി എന്റെഅടുത്തുവന്നു കൂടുകയുണ്ടായി. അപ്പോൾ കാർഡുപ്രകാരം അവരുടെ അരി കൊടുത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി എന്തായിരിക്കും. എല്ലുമുറിയെ വേലചെയ്തു പണം കൊണ്ടുവന്നാൽ അരി കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. ഷാപ്പിൽ ചെന്നാൽ അരിയില്ല. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു പറയുന്നു ഞങ്ങളെ അരി വില്ക്കുകയുള്ളൂഎന്നു്. പകൽ സമയം മുഴുവൻ വേലചെയ്തു പണവുംകൊണ്ടു ചിലപ്പോൾ രാത്രിയിലായിരിക്കും അരിക്കു ചെല്ലുന്നതു്. അപ്പോൾ അരികിട്ടാതെവന്നാൽ അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി എന്തായിരിക്കുമെന്നു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഈ സഭയും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടും ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. പബ്ലിക്കു്മാർക്കറ്റിലാണെങ്കിൽ അരി കിട്ടുകയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ചിറ്റൂരിൽ കാർഡു കിട്ടാതെ പട്ടിണി കിടന്നു ഒരു സ്ത്രീ മരണപ്പെട്ടതായി ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: അങ്ങിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ വിലയെടുത്തെങ്കിലും അരി കൊടുത്തു് അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് തെറ്റാണെന്നു എങ്ങിനെ പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു ചോദിക്കുന്നു. വില്ലേജുകളിൽ ബ്ലാക്കുമാർക്കറ്റാണു് വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു്. നിങ്ങളുടെ കൺട്രോൾസിസ്റ്റം ശരിക്കു നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള അനാശാസ്യ സംഭവങ്ങൾ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടാകയില്ല. അതാണു് കൺട്രോൾ സിസ്റ്റം ഫെയിലിയറാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്. നിങ്ങൾ കൺട്രോൾ നടത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു ശരിക്കു നടത്തണം. കാർഡു എല്ലാവർക്കും കൊടുക്കണം. കാർഡു കൊണ്ടുചെല്ലുന്നവർക്കെല്ലാം അരി കൊടുക്കണം. കാർഡു കിട്ടുന്നതിന്നുവേണ്ടി ൨ ൫ ദിവസവും മറവും താമസം വരുന്നതിന്റെ കാരണമെന്താണു്? കാർഡു കേടുവരുന്നതു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ കുറ്റം കൊണ്ടാണോ? അതു കയ്യിൽപിടിച്ചു പെരുമാറിയാൽ കേടുവരുന്ന ഒന്നാണു്. കേടുവരുന്ന കാർഡുമാറ്റി കിട്ടുന്നതിനു രണ്ടണ വാങ്ങുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥമെന്താണു്? പാവങ്ങളോടുള്ള ഒരു തട്ടിപ്പറിക്കൽ മാത്രമാണതു്.

രണ്ടാമതായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ നെല്ലു വാങ്ങലിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാമെന്നുവിചാരിക്കുന്നു. നെല്ലു പറക്കു ൧ ക. ൪ ണ. യായിട്ടാണു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് എടുക്കുന്നതു്. മുളവന്നിട്ടുള്ള നെല്ലുംകൂടി ഒന്നുകാലുറപ്പിക കൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. കൃഷിയിൽ അവക്കു ദോഷംവന്നു; അതുകൊണ്ടു അവരുടെ ഈ നെല്ലിനു ഒന്നുകാലുറപ്പിക കൊടുക്കയാണെന്നു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു സമ്മതിക്കാം. അല്ലാതെ ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള പൊട്ടനെല്ലിനുംകൂടി ഒന്നുകാലുറപ്പിക കൊടുക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റെ അർത്ഥമെന്താണു്? നല്ല നെല്ലിനു കൊടുക്കുന്നവിലതന്നെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പൊട്ട നെല്ലിനും കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ പൊട്ട നെല്ലിൽ പകുതിയും നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോകുന്നതാണു്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അതു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിൽ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഡെപ്പോവിലാണെങ്കിൽ നല്ല നെല്ലു സേവകന്മാർക്കു കൊടുക്കും. രണ്ടു നെല്ലിനും വില ഒരുപോലെയാണു്. നല്ല നെല്ലും പൊട്ടനെല്ലുമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നല്ല നെല്ലിനു വില കൂറച്ചുകൂട്ടിയും പൊട്ടനെല്ലിനു വില കുറെ കുറച്ചും, ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു നഷ്ടമില്ലാത്തവിധത്തിൽ വില്ക്കുവാൻ എന്തായിരുന്നു വിരോധം. അതു ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വം ചെയ്യാവുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ജനദ്രോഹപരമായ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു വരുത്തിക്കൂട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒന്നുകിൽ കൺട്രോൾ എടുത്തുകളയുക. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു ശരിക്കു നടത്തുവാൻ ആവശ്യമുള്ളതു ചെയ്യുക എന്നതാണു എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: കൺട്രോൾ ശരിക്കു നടത്തണം. ചില അധികാരങ്ങൾ എടുത്തുകളയണം.

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മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: ഈ ഉപദ്രവമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നവർക്ക് തക്കതായ ശിക്ഷ കൊടുക്കണം. മിസ്റ്റർ ഇയ്യു പറഞ്ഞമാതിരി അവരെ വിപ്ലിംഗ്കഴിച്ചാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ചെയ്യുന്ന ദ്രോഹങ്ങളെല്ലാം നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്ക മനസ്സിലായിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന എനിക്ക സംശയമാണ്. അദ്ദേഹം നാട്ടുമ്പുറങ്ങളിൽ വരുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഞാനിവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതിലും കൂടുതൽ ദ്രോഹം അവിടെ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ഞാൻ തെളിയിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാം. ഹജൂരിൽനിന്ന കറെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പിടിച്ചു മലയുടെ മുകളിലേക്ക വിട്ട. അവിടെ പാവ്വത്യക്കാരന്മാർ പറയുന്നമാതിരിയാണ് അവരുടെ പ്രവൃത്തി. അവർ അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുമായി സഹകരിച്ചു വേണ്ടതു പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഇതു കറെ ടേദപ്പെട്ടമായിരുന്നു.

ഫെയർപ്രൈസ്സ് ഷാപ്പിന്നു ഒരു അഡൈ്വസറി കമ്മറിയുണ്ട്. അതിൽ മൂന്നുപേരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്താണ് അവരുടെ ജോലിയെന്നതു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനും മനസ്സിലായിട്ടില്ല. ഞാനും അതിലെ ഒരു മെമ്പറാണ്. ഞാൻ ഷാപ്പിൽ കയറിച്ചെന്നാൽ സാധാരണയായി അവരെകണ്ടു് ഒന്നു പുഞ്ചിരിയിടും. എന്താണുചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നു എനിക്കും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ; അവക്കും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. കമ്മിറ്റി മെമ്പർമാരുടെ ചുമതലയെന്താണെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതിന്റെ ആവശ്യമെന്താണെന്നു എനിക്കുമറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതൊരു അഭരണമാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: ഇതു നാട്ടുകാരോടു സഹകരിച്ചു ചെയ്യില്ലെങ്കിൽ വളരെ അബദ്ധങ്ങൾക്കിടവരുന്നതാണ്. ഒന്നുകിൽ കൺട്രോൾ സ്കീം നിശ്ശേഷം നിർത്തിക്കളയുക, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു ശരിക്കുനടത്തുക. ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു് എല്ലാറ്റിന്റേയും വില കുറച്ചുപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ആ വിലയിൽ കൂടുതൽ വില്ക്കുന്നവനെ കഠിനമായി ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുകയെന്നാണ്. അതേസമയത്തു ശരിക്കുള്ള വിലക്ക ജനങ്ങൾക്ക സാധനങ്ങൾ കിട്ടാൻ വിഷമവും ഉണ്ടാകാൻ പാടില്ല.

ഇനിയൊന്നു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ആയുർവ്വേദ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെക്കുറിച്ചാണ്. ദിവാൻജി അവർകളും പറഞ്ഞു ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്മരുന്നുകൾക്ക വിലകൂടിയതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അതിലേക്കു കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു്. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു് പ്രവർത്തനം കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമായ വിധത്തിൽ വികസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന്നു യുണാനിമസായിട്ട ഒരു റെസലൂഷൻ ഈ സഭ പാസാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യപ്രകാരംതന്നെയാണ് അതു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു പറയണമെന്നുമാത്രമേ ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നുള്ളൂ.

പിന്നെ ഒരു വിഷയം പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ജയിലിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. ജയിലിലെ അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷനെപ്പറ്റി ഇന്നലെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി മെമ്പർ ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇത്രവളരെ സീരിയസായ ഒരു അലിഗേഷൻ ഒരു റസ്പോൺസിബിൾ മെമ്പർ ഇവിടെ ഉൽഘോഷിച്ചു സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഗവമ്മെൻറ ഉടനെതന്നെ ഒരു അന്വേഷണക്കമ്മറിവെച്ചു് അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഒരന്വേഷണം നടത്തണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ഞാനും അതുമാതിരി ഒരാക്ഷേപം കേൾക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഉടനെ ഈ വിഷയത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഒരു അന്വേഷണം നടത്തണമെന്ന അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടു് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബു് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജിഇൻസ്റ്റാസേട്ട: ഈ കൌൺസിൽ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടു് ഏഴു കൊല്ലത്തിന്നുശേഷം ഇദംപ്രഥമമായിട്ടാണ് ഒരു ലേഡിമെമ്പർ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷപദം സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതെന്നും, അതുകൊണ്ടു് അവരെ അനുമോദിക്കുന്നുഎന്നും മിസ്റ്റർ രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അവരെയല്ലാ, അനുമോദിക്കേണ്ടതു്; അവരെ ഈസ്ഥാനം വഹിക്കുവാനിടയാക്കിയ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവാൻജി അവർകളെയാണു് ഞാൻ ഹാർദ്ദമായി അനുമോദിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈകൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു് ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡണ്ടു് ചെയ്ത ഉൽഘാടനപ്രസംഗം ഈ കൌൺസിലിലെ എല്ലാ മെമ്പർമാക്കും ഏതാണ്ടു് ഒരു വിവരം മനസ്സിലായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. ഫസ്റ്റ് ലക്ഷത്തിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപാ മിച്ചമുള്ള ഒരുബഡ്ജറ്റാണ് ഫിനാൻസ്മെമ്പർ ഇവിടെ സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കുന്നതായാൽ കൊല്ലംതോറും വരവു് സംഖ്യ വളരെവർദ്ധിച്ചു കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഒരുകോടി എമ്പത്തിമൂന്നുലക്ഷത്തിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപയാണ് വരുമാനം കാണുന്നതു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു സർപ്ലസ്സ് ബഡ്ജറ്റ്കൊണ്ടുവന്നതിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടും, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് ഫിനാൻസ്സ്മെമ്പരോടും കൃതജ്ഞത പറയേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ബഡ്ജറ്റിലെ ഓരോ അയിറ്റങ്ങളും പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് എടുത്തുപറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് നോക്കുമ്പോൾ വളരെ അയിറ്റങ്ങളിൽ ചിലവ് കൂടുതലായികാണുന്നുണ്ട്. റവന്യൂവകുപ്പിൽ ക്ലാർക്കുമാരെ നിയമിക്കുവാനുംമറ്റും ഒരു വലിയ തുക കൊള്ളിച്ചതായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു അയിറ്റം കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിന്റെ ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്ന് എനിക്ക മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അതു് ഒരു സപ്ലൈ ക്ലാസ്സ് തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനു് വേണ്ടിയിട്ടല്ലെ?

ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: സപ്ലൈക്ലാസ്സു തുടങ്ങുവാനല്ല. സ്പെഷ്യൽ സപ്ലൈയെ വെക്കുന്നതിനോ മറ്റോ ൨,൬൦൦ രൂപ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു ഒരു കൂടുതൽ ചിലവായിട്ട കാണുന്നുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: ഇത്രവലിയ സംഖ്യയില്ല. ഒരു സപ്ലൈ ക്ലാസ്സ് തുടങ്ങുവാൻ പോകുന്നുണ്ട്. സപ്ലൈ ടെയിനിംഗ് പാസ്സായിട്ടുള്ളവർ ഇപ്പോൾ വളരെ ചുരുക്കമാണ്.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: ഇതുവരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് സപ്ലൈ ടെയിനിംഗ് പാസ്സാവാത്തവരെയാണൊ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: പാസ്സാകാത്തവരേയും വെക്കേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ചിലർ വാർസപ്ലൈസ്സിലേക്കു് പോയിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും, ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽനിന്നു് പെൻഷ്യനായിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും പഠിച്ചവർ വളരെ ചുരുങ്ങിട്ടുണ്ട്. തന്നിമിത്തം അവധിക്കു പോയിരിക്കുന്നവരുടെ ഒഴിവിൽ ടെയനിംഗ് കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലാത്ത ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു പുതിയ ക്ലാസ്സു തുടങ്ങുവാൻ പോകുന്നതു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: അതിനു ൨,൫൫൦ ക. മാത്രമേയുള്ളു.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: അതുപോലെ ഓരോ അയിറ്റത്തിലും ഇങ്ങിനെ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഉപ്പു വ്യവസായ പദ്ധതിക്കു് ൩൦,൦൦൦ ക. ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞു. നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ ആവശ്യത്തിനുള്ള ഉപ്പു് സാധാരണയായി ബോമ്പെയിൽനിന്നാണു്. വരുത്താറുള്ളതെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അറിവു്. അതു ടെണ്ടർ വിളിച്ചിട്ടാണു് നടത്തിവരുന്നതു്. ഈ ആവശ്യത്തിനു കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ എന്തിനാണെന്നു് ഒന്നുഅറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാമായിരുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. ലോനപ്പൻ: ഉപ്പു് നമ്മുടെനാട്ടിൽ നിന്നുതന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണു്.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ പറ്റിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെയുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. ലോനപ്പൻ: ഉണ്ടു്.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജിഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: ഇവിടെ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ സ്റ്റോറിലെ ആവശ്യം മുഴുവനും നിവ്വഹിച്ചുകിട്ടുമെന്നു് പറയാമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. ലോനപ്പൻ: കിട്ടുമെന്നാണു് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നതു്.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: നമ്മുടെ സ്റ്റോറിലേക്കു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉപ്പു മുഴുവനും ഇവിടെനിന്നു കിട്ടുമെന്നു് എനിക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യമില്ല. അതിനു് വലിയ അണകളും മറ്റും കെട്ടി അതിൽ കടൽവെള്ളം കയറ്റി പലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ഉപ്പു ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടും പുറത്തുനിന്നുവരുന്ന ഉപ്പുകൊണ്ടാണു് ആവശ്യം നിറവേറ്റി പോന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. ലോനപ്പൻ: പക്ഷെ, അതിനു് ഇവിടെ സ്റ്റോക്കു് അധികമുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ കൊച്ചി സ്വയം പര്യാപ്തമാകുമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതല്ലെ നല്ലതു്.

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ഖാൻസാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജിഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: അതിന്ന് ഒരു എക്സ്പ്പർട്ടിനെ വെച്ചു പരീക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കണം.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: എക്സ്പ്പർട്ടിനെയൊക്കെ വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജിഇബ്രാഹിംസേട്ട്: പിന്നെ ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ആകപ്പാടെ ചിലതെല്ലാം കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് യാതൊരു തുകയും കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായികാണാന്നില്ല. ആദായനികുതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു് വലിയൊരുതുകയാണു് മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽനിന്നു് ലഭിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ൧൯൫൫-ൽ നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ആദായനികുതി ൨൭ ലക്ഷം രൂപയോളമുണ്ടു്. അമി താദായനികുതി ൧൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ ചിലപാനമാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അതു മുഴുവനും മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽനിന്നതന്നെയാണോ?

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാസേട്ട്: ഒരു ഉദാഹരിക്കു് ൧൦൦ രൂ. വീതം വെച്ചു് കളക്ഷൻ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരൻ എഴുത്തച്ഛൻ: എത്രകൊല്ലം കൊടുക്കാതെ ഇരുന്നിട്ടാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയതു്?

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാസേട്ട്: ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കണക്കെടുത്തു നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഒരു ഉദാഹരിക്കു് ൧൦൦ രൂ. വീതം ടാക്സ് കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതുകാണാം. അതു എത്രകൊല്ലം കൊടുക്കാതെയിരുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റിയല്ല ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി ടൌൺ ഇമ്പ്രൂവ്മെണ്ടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ മുറവിളി കൂട്ടിട്ടു് കുറെ കൊല്ലങ്ങളായി. എന്നാൽ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് യാതൊരു തുകയും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി കാണാത്തതിനാൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ വ്യസിക്കുന്നു. ആവശ്യമുള്ള പല സംഗതികളിലും മറ്റു ചില ടൌണുകളിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നതുപോലെ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലും ചെയ്യുതരണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ഇന്നലെ മിസ്റ്റർ സേലം ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽ നിവസിക്കുന്നതായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് സുഖമായ രീതിയിൽ സൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്നുമാത്രമെ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളു. അവിടെ ഒരു പബ്ലിക്ക് മീറ്റിംഗ്ഹ് കൂടാൻ സ്ഥലമോ, ശുദ്ധവായു ശ്വസിക്കുവാൻ പാറിയ പാക്കോ മറ്റൊ ഒന്നുമില്ല. എന്നാൽ കുപ്പപ്പാടം സ്കീം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ മുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ട കൊല്ലം കുറെയായി. അതൊന്നും ഇതേവരെ ശരിയായിട്ടില്ല. അതിന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു പറയുന്നതു് യുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ കാര്യമാണു്. യുദ്ധം തീന്നിട്ടു മാത്രം നമ്മൾ എല്ലാ സംഗതികളും നടത്താമെന്നു് വിചാരിച്ചാൽ അതു വലിയ വിഷമമാണു്. ആയതുകൊണ്ടു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള സംഗതികൾ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലും ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

ഇനി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. മുസ്ലീം സമുദായത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം അറബി ഐച്ഛികവിഷയമായി എടുത്തു്-സെക്കൻറ് ലാംഗ്വേജ്-കോളേജിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു് യാതൊരു സ്ഥാനവും ഇതുവരെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: That was so. We have made provision for asking for affiliation this year.

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇബ്രാസേട്ട്: ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ വളരെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് സ്കൂളുകളിലും എയിഡഡ് സ്കൂളുകളിലും ഖുറാൻ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി കോളേജിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്ന അറബിക്ക് ലക്ചറന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു് ഒരു സൂപ്പർവിഷ്യൻ നടത്തിക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇങ്ങിനെ അറബിക് പണ്ഡിതന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു് സ്കൂയിറ്റ് ഒട്ടാകെ ഏതെങ്കിലും തരത്തിൽ ഒരു അലവൻസ്സ് കൊടുത്തു് കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഒന്നോ, രണ്ടോ തവണ ഒരു സൂപ്പർവിഷ്യൻ നടത്തുന്നപക്ഷം അതു് ഖുറാൻ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാർക്കും, കുട്ടികൾക്കും ഒരു പ്രോത്സാഹനമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണു്.

പിന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗസംബന്ധമായി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. ഇവിടെ മിസ്റ്റർ ഇബ്രാഹിം സംസാരിച്ചതു് മുസ്ലിം സമുദായത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്യുവരുന്ന നയം ഏറ്റവും ശോചനീയമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാണു്. ഇന്നത്തെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പോപ്പുലേഷൻ

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അനുസരിച്ചു നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ മുസ്ലിമുകൾക്കു ലഭിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗത്തിന്റെ ശതമാനം വളരെ കുറച്ചുമാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: കോളിഫൈഡ് ആയിട്ടുള്ളവർ ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കും.

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബു് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസ്സാസേട്ടു്: കോളിഫൈഡായിട്ടുള്ളവർ ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്. മുസ്ലിമുകളുടെ ഉദ്യോഗപ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറയുമ്പോൾ കോളിഫൈഡായിട്ടുള്ളവർ ഇല്ലയെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് കബളിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ നോക്കുന്ന ഒരുമാതിരി വിഷബീജങ്ങൾ അതിന്നിടയിലുണ്ടു്. ആയതുകൊണ്ടു് മുസ്ലിം സമുദായത്തിൽ ഹയർ കോളിഫിക്കേഷൻ ഉള്ളവർക്കും ന്യായമായിട്ടു് ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ.)

ഇനി പബ്ലിക്കു് വർക്കു്സു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ നില നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ചിലകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു് ഹെഡ് പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു് ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. വർക്കിനുവേണ്ടി വളരെ നീക്കിവെക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്റെ സ്വന്തം ഒരു അനുഭവം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനടുത്തു് അഴീക്കോട്ടു് ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യമുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഒരു പാലം പൊളിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടു് നാലോ, അഞ്ചോ കൊല്ലത്തോളമായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു പൊളിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ ഇതുവരെ റിപ്പയർ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ പി. ഡബ്ലിയു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈസു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലെ കാർഡു് സിസ്റ്റത്തെപ്പറ്റി വളരെ വിശദീകരിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞയവസരത്തിൽ സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈ ഡയറക്ടർ ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യം വളരെ ഗൌരവമായിട്ടു് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ട ഒന്നാണു്. കാർഡു മോശമായി എന്ന കാരണത്തിന്മേൽ ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ്സു് ഷോപ്പുകാരൻ അരി കൊടുക്കാതെയും മറ്റും സാധുക്കളെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണു്. ഇതു് പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു് സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈസു് ഡയറക്ടർ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. കൂടാതെ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലെ കച്ചവടക്കാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇയ്യിടെ ഒരു കമ്മൂണിക്കേഷൻ പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഏതു ദിക്കുകളിൽനിന്നാണു് സാമാനം വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതെന്നും, എവിടേക്കാണു് അയക്കുന്നതെന്നും, എന്തു വിലയാണു് വാങ്ങുന്നതെന്നുമുള്ളതിനു് പ്രത്യേകം സ്റ്റെയിറ്റുമെണ്ടു് വേണം. എന്നാൽ ചരക്കുകൾ ഒരു ചാക്കുപോലും വില്ക്കുന്നതിനു സിവിൽസപ്ലൈസു് ഡയറക്ടരുടെ പെർമിറ്റു വേണം. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് കടോളിൽ പെടാത്ത സാധനങ്ങൾക്കുപോലും സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈസു് ഡയറക്ടരുടെ പെർമിറ്റുവേണം. ഈ വക കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ദിവാൻജിയുടെ അടുക്കൽ കച്ചവടക്കാർ നിവേദനം ചെയ്തതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾക്കു അല്പം ശമനം കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈസു് ഡയറക്ടർ എന്തു ഉദ്ദേശത്തിന്മേലാണു് ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം പെർമിറ്റുവേണമെന്നു് പറയുന്നതെന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ഈവക സംഗതികളൊക്കെ കച്ചവടക്കാർ പുറത്തുവിടുകയില്ല. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ ബിസ്സിനസ്സിന്റെ സീക്രട്ടു് പുറത്തുപോകുമെന്നല്ലാതെ മറ്റൊന്നുമില്ല. ചരക്കുകൾ പുറത്തേക്കു പോകുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. കച്ചവടക്കാർ ആരോടു് വാങ്ങിച്ചുവെന്നും, എവിടെനിന്നു വരുത്തിയെന്നും മറ്റുമുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ആവക കാര്യങ്ങൾ പുറത്തേക്കു വിടുന്നതായാൽ വളരെ വൈഷമ്യമുണ്ടു്. ഈവക സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ദിവാൻജിക്കു് മനസ്സിലായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ധാരാളം ചരക്കുകൾ വരുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇവിടെ ഏതു ചരക്കാണു് കൂടുതൽ ചിലവാകുന്നതെന്നും, ഏതിനാണു കൂടുതൽ ആവശ്യമെന്നും നോക്കീട്ടല്ല ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ചരക്കു് വരുത്തുന്നതു്. കടലപൊടിയാണെങ്കിൽ ധാരാളം ചാക്കു് കെട്ടിവെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ കടലപൊടിയും മറ്റും കുതിരയാണു് അധികമായി തിന്നുക. ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു വരുത്തുന്ന സാധനം ഇവിടത്തെ ചിലവിനെ ആസ്പദമാക്കി വേണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഈവക സാധനങ്ങൾ ഇങ്ങിനെ ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് നശിച്ചുപോകുമെന്നല്ലാതെ വേറെ യാതൊരു ഉപകാരവും കാണുന്നില്ല.

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ഇതു് സാധാരണയല്ല. കടലപ്പൊടിയാണെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ വരുത്തിയതാണു്. ഇതെല്ലാം വളരെ ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടാണു് സ്റ്റോക്കു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിൽ ഒരു ചാക്കുപോലും ചീത്തയാവുകയില്ല.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസാ സേട്ട്: ഇതുവരെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ സ്റ്റോക്ക് എത്രയുണ്ടെന്നു് അറിയാമൊ?

രാമവർമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ആ വക കായ്ങ്ങൾ വളരെ ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടാണു് വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിൽനിന്നു ഒരു ചാക്കും നഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയില്ല.

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസാ സേട്ട്: ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ഇത്തരത്തിലുള്ള പൊടി കൾ ധാരാളം സ്റ്റോക്കു് ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ വലിയ അർത്ഥമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. വളരെ ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചുതാണെങ്കിൽ കൊള്ളാം. അതു ശരിയായിട്ടു ആലോചിച്ചു നടത്തണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇവിടെ ചരക്കുകൾ വളരെ സ്റ്റോക്കുള്ള നിലക്കു അതിനു പെർമിറ്റുകൾ പ്രകാരം പുറത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് അനുവദിക്കാത്തതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണു്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു ആവശ്യമില്ലാതെ വെറുതെ കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ദ്രോഹമാക്കണമെന്നു് വല്ല മനഃപൂർവ്വവുമുണ്ടൊ? ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ഈ ചരക്കുകൾ പുറത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ അതിനു് പെർമിറ്റ് കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്.

രാമവർമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: വില കുറെ ജാസ്തിയായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ സാധനം അങ്ങിനെ പുറത്തേക്കു വിടാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഭക്ഷണസാധനമാണു്. നാട്ടിൽ അരിയില്ലാത്ത കാലത്തു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു ഒരുവലിയ ചുമതലയുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങാടിയിലുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ പുറത്തേക്കു വിടാനും നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. വില താഴ്ത്തി വിറ്റാൽ ആളുകൾ വാങ്ങിക്കും.

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസാ സേട്ട്: എന്നാൽ പെർമിറ്റിന്റെ അവധി ഇത്രയെന്നു അനുവദിച്ചുകൂടെ?

രാമവർമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: പെർമിറ്റ് ഒരു ലോങ്ങ് പീരിഡ്‌വെച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ചെക്കുചെയ്യുവാൻ ഉള്ള അവസരം കിട്ടണം. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഷോർട്ട് പീരിഡ് വെക്കുന്നതു്. അല്ലാതെ യാതൊരു അർത്ഥമില്ലാതെ ചെയ്യുന്ന കായ്മല്ല ഇതു്.

പാനൽ ചെയർമാൻ: ഓണറബിൾ മെമ്പരുടെ സമയം കഴിഞ്ഞു.

ഖാൻ സാഹിബ്ബ് ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസാ സേട്ട്: അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു കായ്മായ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തെ അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Ephraim Ouseph *(Narakal)*: Madam President, the Budget of 1119 reveals the remarkable strength and elasticity of our financial position. The transitory gains of the Exchequer from the war time, hard drinking and mad business are counterbalanced by the financial possibilities of our Railways, Income-tax, Forests, Harbour and Customs. But the disposal of these resources proposed by the Government recalled to my mind a parable in the New Testament "how the wicked servant kept his master's pound laid up in a napkin; whereas the faithful servant gained tenfold by trading with it; unto every one which hath shall be given".

The Government like a timid hoarder refused to take risk and venture into production. They could control the actual and potential resources in men and materials—all the available wealth and credit of the people. They are the guardians of the present and the trustee for the future. Any State not conscious of that function is not a State but an Estate, as the British Indian critics would say.

The budget of a Government is not a mere statement of its annual income and expenditure but an account of its work and achievements, the keynote of its policies and ideals. If we cannot have our own administrative policies and ideals, we cannot justify our existence as a quasi-sovereign State with its expensive paraphernalia. A British Indian District has a voice in formulating the national policy, especially in the control of finance and industry. By foregoing that supreme right one should have thought we have gained a certain measure of administrative autonomy. Whenever we asked the Government to explore the possibilities of that autonomy the patronising answer had been 'We alone are not the wise in this world'. Truly a case of the blind leading the blind—a deplorable lack of imagination, rather than an exasperating attitude of complacency.

I have no time to examine in detail the incidence of each item of taxation or the marginal utilities of the various heads of expenditure or even the cumulative effect of this budget on production and distribution; and the diversion of economic resources.

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Speaking generally, the budget that is presented to us marks a considerable evolution from the taxes on transit to provide for the retainers of a feudal police State, through the direct taxation for the nation-building departments of a welfare State, to the steeply progressive war taxation of a fighting State. The whole process is described with Gladstonian unction, which is so strangely out of date in these days of Professor Keynes.

Even an official authority like Hugh Dutton the present President of the British Board of Trade have held that it is the primary duty of public finance to increase people's ability and desire to work and save; and to direct production and population to proper channels.

Pitiful under-production, Madam, is the sole cause of the paralysis of purchasing power and the appalling poverty of our people. Can our Government do anything now to mitigate the inevitable chaos after the war. Surely they can. In agriculture, after assigning freely whole territories to lazy Jenmis allowing extensive waste and wild lands, an honest peasant proprietor is made to pay thrice the market value for utilising poramboke to protect his cultivation. Otherwise the oppressive machinery of the encroachment proceedings is set against him.

An unhealthy dislike of enterprise when epoch making discoveries are made in agriculture is certainly a patholigical symptom.

The alarming rise in the cost of living index number in our land more than in any other allied country is sought to be checked by a vigorous control of credit and a ruthless taxation of profits. In a war effort with a lot of mental reservation as in India a deflationary policy must be implemented with a nationwide production drive as will, to correct the production money ratio and to keep away the spectre of famine or short supply in the land. When war is said to be won, in factories our intelligent and cheap labour could have been more generously used to step up production. We hope the Government are conscious of their further duty to save the workers from the nefarious activities of the communist conspirators who are feathering their own masts when the adversities of the Titanic struggle have brought strange bed fellows to the empire.

I dare say that by inviting foreign entrepreneurs by subscribing capital to private undertakings, by giving concessions to native enterprise or directly venturing into production no Government is leading to insolvency or going to be sold out in execution of debts. In this respect Mysore and even Travancore have stolen a march over us.

Whatever be the full implications of Wagner's sociopolitical view of public finance we cannot dismiss with contempt the universal plea for an equitable distribution of wealth through State's financial operations. Exponents of various ideologies may find a general measure of agreement in this dictum of Professor Laski. Once urgency is satisfied, superfluity becomes a problem of so fixing the return to service that each man can perform his function with the maximum return to society as a whole. The rigorous pursuit of such a policy will develop in the long run a powerful middle class who have always represented the industry, the thrift, the morality and the culture of a people, in an infinitely greater degree than its radical rif-raf or plutocratic parasites. In pursuance of such a policy we may with advantage (a) lower the land revenue to the Travancore rate, (b) bring the larger agricultural incomes within income-tax (c) convert the tenant's holdings into guaranteed interest yielding bonds as agreed to by the Madras Zemandars (d) introduce a moderate inheritance taxation as in all civilized countries (e) encourage those cottage industries which can technically hold their own in the market (f) endeavour to make living wage with a margin for saving, a first charge on production (g) introduce profit sharing in Government enterprises (h) provide equality of opportunity to deserving talent (i) arrange for extensive labour welfare work (j) organise functional representative bodies and delegate administrative powers to them, (k) set up judiciary where arbitration fails in industrial disputes and (l) provide poor relief on a large scale.

I mentioned all this because, historically, the only justification claimed by beaurocratic Governments like ours has been the brilliance of their achievements. If the Government knew their game they might try to damp the enthusiasm for democratic agitation by a shower of beneficial reforms similar to those I mentioned.

Misgovernment, Madam, is a luxury, selfgovernment alone can afford. This Government cannot any longer ignore the new wave of corruption now engulfing our entire executive services. Of course our police and excise people were never above reproach; but there was a time even they used to compare favourably with similar men in neighbouring administrations. But now the war effort has proved to the official class, as to many other people, a windfall and the chance of a life-time. This is perhaps their equality of sacrifice!

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Our Government depending as they do on no community or class for their existence ought to attain a really Caesarian justice in administration. Peace is the work, justice in communal quarrels as in any other dispute. To say that people born of the same stock and living the same life have lost their patriotisim and efficiency simply because they accepted spiritual conceptions which made the barbarians of Europe the masters of the world, is, what I call a miserable lie and a traitor's tactics. Any attempt to evade the accepted principle of communal justice when significant decisions are taken will be watched with the utmost vigilence by this House.

I cannot be accused of having bees in my honne, having no responsibility for a ministry for bee-keeping. And I like to think that we Malayalees will pay a glorious and significant part in a free and prosperous India, even as Sankara, another Malayalee played in its social and spiritual history.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Madam President, First of all I congratulate our Hon'ble President and the Government for selecting the Hon'ble Lady Member as one of the Panel of Chairmen.

There is before the House a somewhat satisfactory Budget and there is a surplus and moreover there are certain funds provided for the nation-building departments. In the present times I hope in every Province and native State there will be generally a surplus budget because the income is high as is expected in the war time.

Now coming to Cochin, by way of general remarks I can say that even though there is a surplus budget we have to see whether we are improving from last year to this year. That is the only test. When the budget is discussed what we have to see is whether from last year to this year the budget provides for any effective improvement for the well being of the commoner. How are they affected? Is there any source of improvement for them in the mater of food, clothing and shelter? If that is achieved or a step is taken in that line we can praise the government in having such a budget. In this budget I think there are certain provisions made and certain steps have been taken to achieve that end. I am sure that achievement may not be in the near future. It may take years. The Government must see that there must be schemes and plans not only for this year but ranging for a certain number of years. Within five or ten years such and such objects must be achieved in the State and for that some beginnings must be made. Unless there is such an idea in mind I think all our attempts will not bear some fruit. In that view I say in Cochin State we have not done anything so far as industrialisation is concerned. In Travancore I think the Diwan has paid more stress on the industrialisation of the State. When there are raw materials and cheap labour in the State why not we also do something in that direction. Why not have a State expert permanently here in our State to investigate the whole matter and see what all potentialities are there in the State.

Secondly, what have we done in the State as regards commercial agriculture.

Then the third question which has got more importance is the problem which we have to face after the war. It is sure that there will be a great unrest after the war. More than a lakh of people have gone to the war and joined the labour forces. Their standard of living has been raised. Their aspirations have been raised. They will not rest content with what they were getting formerly. It will be a very serious problem. Unless Government finds ways and means to face it satisfactorily and scientifically I am sure many unfortunate things may happen. We must provide for all these things.

I think as far as I am concerned one of the most important departments that might have been begun earlier was the Research Department. There must be a special department here to make researches in all subjects. Let us see whether there are possibilities for such research. In other countries there are permanent departments for research. Suppose I put a question to get some answer in that line. How can the Government supply the information. As there is a surplus budget now why cannot the government have a Research Department.

Then, as was expressed by the Hon'ble Members for Cranganur and Mattancheri, as regards the representation in public service I must say a few words about the general administration. The Ezhuvas, one of the major communities forming 23 per cent of the whole population, are not even getting its due share. We were trying to get communal justice and the Government have accepted that also on the floor of this House many a time and even now the Government is not doing its duty. There are only very few people of the Ezhuva community in grades above Rs. 100 and even now appointments are being made day by day and I must say that the Government to some extent is shutting its eyes to this importent question. I say a strong move

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will have to be made if the Government hereafter continues the same policy. As regards the working of the Staff Selection Board we are completly satisfied. We say it is one of the best methods adopted. All the evils are avoided and the advantages are derived. But that will not achieve the same purpose. The Staff Selection Board must continue in the same form. In the Higher grade of service also the Ezhuvas have to come up and I say His Highness will be proud to declare that so many belonging to that community are in the service. I hope that the Government will pay particular attention to this aspect of the matter and see that heareafter at least the grievances of this poor and backward community are redressed as early as possible.

Now, as regards the Revenue Department, all the village Menons and Parvathyams are not within the purview of the Staff Selection Board. I am sure the present Hon'ble Member for Revenue is trying to see that the ratio is maintained. As far as I am concerned, I see that even after the rules regarding the communal rotation are issued, the ratio is not maintained by the Heads of Departments. So, if a direction is issued that as far as possible the principle of communal rotation should be strictly adhered to by the Heads of Departments and if they do not act up to them, Government must ask why that departmental head has not done that. There can be no reason for the community in waiting at the foot of the departmental heads and claim that they must be given that appointment. So when there is a provision in the rules, they must obey it. I say in all matters of appointment, rules must be prescribed and the Government must see that they are obeyed. There must be a scientific way of doing communal justice.

As regards war I can say that our community has contributed as much as possible by way of men and money. They form a major portion of the labour forces because they are the working classes, and poor agriculturists who toil for others. 90 per cent of them are labourers working day and night to fill the coffers of others. As regards the Educational concessions given to war employees, I have come to understand that only for their children,these educational concessions are given. In British India concessions are given to the nearest relatives also, as was expressed by the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu yesterday. So the Government will be pleased to consider that aspect of the question and see that even the nearest relatives are given as far as possible the educational concessions. I have noticed in certain villages there are orphans whose father has gone for war and died and whose mother has died and nobody to look after them. In such cases Goverament should do them something. I do not know whether the Military Welfare Officer is doing anything in this respect.

As regards the question of food it is a very importent item. Formerly I thought our Diwan was "all for War". Now I understand after two years' A. F. W. Dixon is "All For Welfare" of the people and not for war alone. I think that in the matter of commandeering paddy of our Cochin State the department ought to be more careful and serious. As far as my own personal experience is concerned, even if we enforce our present rules strictly, we can have more paddy. There are nooks and corners where if we search we can get paddy. It is the time when people are starving. So that aspect should be pressed before the Government to see that as much paddy as possible from any corner, let it be from any sacred place, without consideration of anything, must be commandeered and taken from every place. If that is done I think we can have more paddy and the department must pay more attention to this fact.

On Ayurveda I have to say a few words, as a nation building department. As stated by the Hon'ble Member for Nellai it is a very progressive department which is under the Hon'ble Minister. If that department is given every encouragement by the Government this year or in the near future, I think we can be proud of saying that Ayurveda is meeting the needs of the people of the Cochin State. We need not go to the allopathic treatment at all. That department I mean Ayurveda ought to be made a major department with all amenities possible. In all Taluks there must be dispensary, not only in Taluks, in other places as well. Sales depots and other equipments also should be provided for. If that department is developed, it will relieve us to a very great extent. I am proud to say that the Ayurvedic form of treatment is far better than any other form of treatment in Cochin State.

Then as regards education, as regards my knowledge is concerned Government have fixed a standard for the grant of half-fee concession. If the income comes below that standard the half-fee concession will apply. Suppose the income is Rs. 10. I think in Cochin State there is a standard where the income fixed for classes I to 3 is Rs. 120 per year, that is Rs. 10 per mensem. Ordinarily a cooly will get Rs. 15 a month. So he cannot have the benefit of the half-fee concession. So Government is taking away what has been given by the right hand. I think

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there must be an attempt by the Government to reconsider the question and raise the standard of half-fee concession.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Is it the Hon'ble Member's suggestion that as the incomes of people rise the standard of poverty also must be fixed.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* No. There will be lesser number of pupils.

Mr. K. S. Panickar *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* The cost of living has gone too high.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Suppose a cooly gets 4 annas or 6 annas. Is it sufficient to maintain his belly and maintain his family? So my suggestion is that there must be a revision of that standard at least for the present time.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അന്ന ഭക്ഷണപദാർത്ഥങ്ങളുടെ വില വളരെ കുറവായിരുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തെ വില വളരെ കൂടീട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* The standard of the Madras Government is different. They have got a rational basis. Any how our thanks are due to the Finance Member and the Government.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur South)* : Madras, I do not propose to traverse the grounds already covered by the Hon'ble Members. I should like to bring to the kind notice of the House one or two things which I feel in my own way very important and on which the House has to bestow its attention. A few months back this House with one voice demanded the Government to attempt at the solution of the beggar problem and we find a committee has been already formed and a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been set apart towards beggar relief. Covernment has to be congratulated for the prompt step taken in that direction. Along with that I would make a further suggestion that the Government may tackle, along with tackling the beggar problem, the problem of leper relief also. Especially in the important towns of this country you find the number of lepers increasing, as it were, from day to day. At every door the leper comes with his worn-out hands and legs. He goes from door to door disceminating, as it were, the infection wherever he goes. There are rich lepers who may go for treatment at their own cost; but there are innumerable leper beggars who spread the disease especially in the crowded towns of this country. At least out of consideration for the fact that the major part of the taxation revenue of the Government has been received from these leading towns, *viz.* Trichur and Mattancheri, at least out of that consideration the Government will not grudge spending a substantial amount in bringing some relief to the lepers of these towns. The municipalities may be asked to divert their attention towards giving some relief in this line. I remember the Trichur Municipality has made some step in this direction, but after all the scope or the extent to which municipalities can render aid in this behalf is very little and we have been at Trichur attempting to meet the cost of building certain additional cells in the Leper Asylum at Adoor, and I believe the other municipalities of this country also are making their own attempts. But a comprehensive scheme is in the case of the beggar relief will be necessary if you really want to give substantial relief in this direction. I bring this fact to the urgent notice of the Government.

One thing I may point out in the matter of the distribution of food grains, kerosene and sugar. In Trichur and other towns also I believe municipalities had their own depots for the distribution of rice and kerosence. Uufortunately, at a particular stage these depots were taken charge of by the Diretor of food Supplies, then Commissioner of Civil Supplies; and we all believed that the municipalities who are the immediate masters on the spot will have some hand in directing the supply of these articles. But we were disillusioned very soon and found that the whole thing was under the exclusive management and direction of the then Commissioner of Civil Supplies. Probably, knowing this difficulty some time hence, later on a notification appeared in the Government Gazette appointing some committees for these municipal areas and the Trichur municipality went to the extent of passing a resolution requesting its Chairman and its members to dissociate themselves from any activity as members of that committee. They only wanted to show their protest to the Government in having taken away from them the management of the distribution of food-grains, kerosene and sugar within the limits of their own administration. I refer to this to point out that the main difficulty with the department is its over-centralisation. Nothing can pass except through one hand. It has come to that. I believe Government will appoint a few subordinates of whatever salary it may be, in whom Government can place trust and in whom the Director of Food Supplies can entrust some of his duties with confidence. I believe a little of decentralisation process has to be gone

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through in this department, if the department is to work successfully. Papers which are sent to the department are not replied promptly. All these papers have to go through one hand. With the best of intentions and with the maximum effort, the Director of Food Supplies, working day in and day out, is not able to cope with the work. I therefore request the Government to add to the higher cadres in the staff of the department, more responsible officers, whatever their pay, we do not mind, provided trust can be placed in them and matters can be entrusted to them and things can be done without the Director's personal intervention.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether the Hon'ble member will be satisfied in the decentralisation if a number of honorary appointments are made.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* It has never been in the mind of the member for Trichur South to make any suggestion regarding the appointment of honorary officers and he is not one for that, and he is also not for giving any appointment to any member of this House. I say there must be full-time officers with very high pay so that there may not be any possibility for corruption. I am insisting upon the word 'high pay' to avoid corruption.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഈവകക്ക് ലിഗൽ അഡൈ്വസറായിട്ടും ആരെയെങ്കിലും വെക്കണമെന്ന ആഗ്രഹമുണ്ടോ ?

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* The question in my humble opinion is irrelevant and therefore I do not answer that. Now I pass on to another matter which I feel important, that is the facilities for transporting goods from Cochin to Trichur. I may say for the information of this House that for 8 months in the year we in Trichur have got the facility of transporting goods from Cochin through water. But from the beginning of Makaram nearly to the end of Medam this facility is taken away by the bunding at Karanchira. That bunding is necessitated out of the fear of salt-water spoiling the kole-crops. I had a short talk with the Chief Engineer and he was explaining to me the difficulties of making any other arrangement. I suggested to him my information regarding the lock out system at Thottappully, and I believe that if the Government were to devote real attention to the possibility of working out this lock out scheme at Karanchira, it will be a real blessing for the consumer, for the transporting charges are added on to the cost of the article and ultimately results in the increase in price to the last consumer. I believe that the transport by rail is 10 times as costly as transport through water and weare not in a position to carry goods by rail, especially during these days of war conditions on account of the shortage of waggons. I believe Government will kindly consider the possibility of a lock out system at Karanchira by which the Trichur business will very much flourish and the last consumer will certainly be benefitted.

One word I may also say with regard to the administration of law on its criminal side. Being an advocate practising in these courts, I feel some awkwardness in making any suggestion with regard to this department. At any rate, I feel as a member of this House I have certain duties and as such, as the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri suggested, I will for the time being forget the fact that I an also an advocate. I mean that considering the great powers and extensive authority conferred on our Magistrates and also the District Magistrate, the scale of pay that has been fixed for them is very low. I should not be misunderstood when I say that the status of all the Second Class Magistrates and also of the District Magistrate has to be enhanced and I understand that there has been a Special Finance Committee report comprising also certain statistics and proposals in this direction. I will only point out this fact to the attention of the Government who, I believe, will take this into consideration and do the needful in the matter without any delay.

I may say one or two things more. Yesterday, there were certain references made here, of retaining officers who have been taken into Cochin from abroad as far as the war lasts. On principle and policy I oppose this mearure. I do not mean any particular individual himself and I do not make this pleading on behalf of any particular individuals already imported or individuals who may hereafter be imported. I am immensely satisfied with the administration of the Police Department by the present Commissioner and if I say that we should abandon this policy it is not because I have a word to say against him, but because it is an insult to the people of Cochin to say that they cannot administer as Heads of Departments. Are we wanting in efficiency? Are we wanting in men who have got the necessary qualifications? I can understand that if a Department requires an expert with technical qualification and if there are no men in Cochin who possess that technical qualification. But in a department which can be administered by any individual with ordinary merit and average efficiency and with a graduate's

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qualification, I do not know except it be for certain reasons which are beyond my comprehension, why individuals from outside should be brought in.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്". പണിക്കർ : അതു" ചുരുങ്ങിയ കാലത്തെ എക്സ്പീരിയൻസുകൊണ്ടു നമുക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെ?—അതുകൊണ്ടാണു".

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South)* : I have not had any experience which the Honb'le Member had. If any particular Head of the Department is found wanting, that should not be made use of in condemning the most salutary pratice of confining the administration to our own people rather than borrowing officers from outside.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്". പണിക്കർ : മിലിറ്റററിയാണു" രാജ്യത്തെ നിലനിറുത്തുന്നതെന്നു നല്ലവണ്ണം ആലോചിക്കണം. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തു് ബന്ധുക്കളും മറ്റുമുള്ള ആളുകളെ നിയമിച്ചാൽ കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തു് വളരെ അപകടസ്ഥിതിയായിരിക്കും ഉണ്ടായിത്തീരുക എന്നു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ നല്ലവണ്ണം മനസ്സിലാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടു" പറയണം.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South)* : I would request the Honb'le Member concerned be satisfied by this, *viz.* that the people of Cochin have been cent per cent loyal not only to His Highness but also to the Imperial Majesty. The people of Cochin, I say, have been always co-operating with all war efforts; the people of Cochin are admittedly a law-abiding set of people and there is no necessity for a military discipline as ar as the people of Cochin are concemed. Anyhow, I leave that matter there. I only request Government as far as possible to desist from the policy of importing men outside, for whatevar department it be I am not concerned. Only one remark more.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്". പണിക്കർ : മിലിറ്റററി കാര്യങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോളം യുദ്ധം കഴിയുന്നതുവരെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു" പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു കാര്യമാണു".

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South)* : In his opening speech, the Diwan-President was saying that out of 1½ millions of people we had 40,000 to the labour force. Of course, it is true that a large amount of money will be pouring into the State to the poor homes of Cochin at the end of every months. It is also true that 40,000 men who will probably be otherise unemployed have been employed. At the same time, it has to be noticed that 40,000 men to be taken away from Cochin is a great drain upon labour in Cochin. If the cost of labour has gone up and even cultivation has suffered for want of labour, it is on account of this drain on the man-power of the country. I would say that along with the feeling that there has been enough of money coming into the country, there is also the fact that there has been a severe drain upon labour power in the country.

I do not wish to reiterate what has been already stated by the Hon'ble members.

Panel Chairman : We have only 10 minutes for the members to speak.

Mr. N. V. Subbarayan Chetti *(Nominated)* : Mr. President Sir, I would like to impress upon you a few facts regarding certain grievances of the community which I represent in the Council and which deserves my own immediate attention. I have already brought these facts to your notice, but so far, none of them has been given its due consideration and so it is my full belief that you will now at least look to them at an early date.

The Tamil Non-Brahmins community just like the Ezhuvas, Nayars and Christians forms one of the major communities in the State with a very large population and it has therefore become absolutely necessary to separate this community from the section of the other Hindu Backward or depressed under the Staff Selection Board with a fair percentage of appointments.

During the last two years a large number of fresh appointments were made to the higher grades in connection with the war efforts, the food production drive and the creation of the new supplies department. But I am sorry to say that not a single Tamil non-Brahmin has been given any preference although there are young and qualified men with sufficient experience in service. I believe that this point also would meet with your early attention.

Another point which I have been pressing for the last so many years is with regard to the educational concession given to the children of this commnnity. These people are so poor that unless free education is given to them at least for a few years as is given to some other communities, it will not be possible for them to come up to the level of the other communities for years to come. I would therefore request that the Diwan President would bestow his best attention to these facts and these grievances are satisfied under your regime.

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Besides I can be glad to note that a part provision has been made in the budget for 1119 for the improvements to Kambalathara Eri. The necessity for improvements to this Eri was realised by the Government some years back and even part provisions were made in the budgets for 1115 and 1116.

But sorry to say that for reasons known to Government alone the works were not commenced. Thousands of acres of porambokes which were lying uncultivated for years and which are now cultivated with food products other than paddy can be converted into first class paddy lands if the improvements to Eri are made. Further this Eri will be useful not only to Mulathara system but also to all other systems lying below it. In these hard days for food materials it will be a great boon to the land-lords and to the Government, if the improvements are effected and thus increase paddy cultivation. The Government would therefore begin the work immediately and see that the amount is not lapsed as was done previously.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Government a few facts regarding the peculiar position of the Chittur Taluk and also about the step-motherly attitude of the Government, in respect of the people of that Taluk.

This Taluk is completely isolated from the rest of the Taluks of the State and is lying surrounded on all sides by British Territory. It is also far away from the capital of the State and as such, Government are not taking any steps to afford amenities to the people of this Taluk as are given to the other Taluks in the matter of Medical aid, Education, and Communication facilities, to the East of the Chittur Town. The State boundary extends over 20 miles in length and there is only one dispensary at Kozhinjampara, where as in the other Taluks in the State the conditions are far better. So also till recently there was no High Schools in those parts. Last year recognition was given to start one High School to Nalleppilli, for which no grant is given. In the Chittur Taluk there are only 3 Boys' High Schools and one Girls' High School. The one recently started at Nalleppilli is one by a private individual. In the case of the other Taluks there is a large number of privately managed High Schools and all of them are given grant. In view of the limited number of High Schools in this Taluk and also in view of the fact that this is the only privately managed High School, I urge the Government to take immediate steps to give the grant as is given to similar institutions. In the matter of Medical aid also it is absolutely necessary to start one dispensery at Nalleppilli in view of the large number of people in and around it. If this is not possible, at least one of the Ayurvedic Hospitals which the Government propose to open very soon, may be opened in Nalleppilli for which I believe the Hon'ble Minister will take necessary steps.

As regards the communication facilities to the interior parts of this Taluk I may tell you that there are only very few roads and consequently people are put to very great difficulties. These difficulties are well known to the Civil Supplies Department, who were purchasing paddy from all parts of the Taluk. I am even told that from some places the paddy purchased by them had to be transported by head loads for want of road conveniences. When compared with the conveniences obtained in the other parts of the State Chittur stands far behind them. I would therefore recommend to the Government and the Council that a five year plan may be arranged to afford these amenities to the people of Chittur Taluk, so that they may enjoy the conveniences and comforts which everybody else gets. It is my earnest belief that the Government would take early action on all the points set forth by me.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Madam, Practically all the points of the budget have been covered by the erudite speehes made on the floor of this House and I do not take up the time of the House to traverse all the points once over again. One or two points which appears to me rather interesting, have to be placed before the House. They may know what exactly the intrinsic value of the budget that has been placed before this House. According to the Hon'ble President and the Finance Member, the supreme feature of this year's budget, is its thorough concentration upon the inescapable items of expenditure. So, I would call this an inescapable budget. Now, in this inescapable budget presented by the Hon'ble Member for Finance, it has been brought to the notice of this House that we are on the road to victory. At page 1 of the Diwan's speech, it is stated that President Roosevelt has been able to state that the "invasion of Sicily marks the beginning of the end". I know it has been mentioned in the papers *ad nosium* that this war is the end of all wars. If that is so, to help the war effort is something which every body should do. Unfortunately, in spite of the statements in the papers and the same thing being mentioned in this Council some time back, it is found that our State, when the world has decided that we do not want more wars, seems starting upon the creation

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of a military force. That seems to be a paradox to me. He says that we have half won the war. If it is for future occasion, I should think this is a war to end all future wars. Then there is no question of any military force. Therefore, it is not worth spending money like this when people are starving in the country and when the money can be much more usefully spent for the benefit of the people of the country.

Then I wondered very much when I was going through the Budget as to what exactly is the test of inescapability. Coming to the National War Front Department I found that last year we were treated to the idea that the irreducable minimum will be spent by the Department and with that the keeping of the morale and the propaganda for Bajra eating section and things of the sort would be properly met. I find Rs. 8,000 provided, I am poor man myself and Rs. 8,000 is much more than last year. I practically object to it. Then I thought the Hon'ble Minister will spend it very wisely and last year's propaganda was, I think, an eminently successful one. This year the expenditure has been doubled. If that be the result of the inescapability of the expenditure, then I am really at a loss to understand what exactly it meant by the term unless the Hon'ble Minister will very kindly enlighten me on the point.

As regards the forests, we have been treated this morning by the Hon'ble Member for Nellai to certain facts. What I want to place before this House is this. It seems to be the policy of the Government to denude all the forests for the war effort, that part of the forests which remains untouched by the Cyclone. So what we are really doing is to destroy all the forests which are really speaking not ours but the wealth of posterity. I as a layman can assert that it will take a long time before the newly afforested areas will be capable of being harvested. If that is so, if there is such fast cuting down of all the forests mainly because Burma and Middle East wants timber, the whole trouble is after having won the war there may not be anybody to reap the fruits of the victory.

Again with regard to the salt manufacture the policy of the Government seems to be absolutely wrong. 200 acres of land have been experimented upon now and found suitable for manufacture. In the Diwan President's speech at page 21 it is stated as follows. "Endeavours are now being made to arrange for a local capitalist to take the area on lease and manufacture salt". I saw a copy of the questions being put to the persons who wanted to take up this job and I find that the general idea of the Government seems to be that practically the whole of the salt manufacture is to be entrusted to one capitalist. My submission to this House is that we are to put our food down upon any such policies. I know as a matter of fact in Travancore where salt is being produced the general quality seems to be to give small lots like 200 or 300 acres to as many people as possible so that there may not be any undue distribution to capitalist. This sentence seems to suggest that this one capitalist who will be entrusted with 200 acres will be entrusted with the whole salt manufacture for Cochin. I submit that it should be the policy of the Government to give it to as many people as possible to be worked economically.

The last is the services and the food department. As regards the services the general policy of the Government seems to be that anybody who is not wanted in any of the department is to be shunted on to the food department. The natural result is this. When a man knows what he has to do he is immediately shunted on to another department and by the time he picks up work he is kicked down again. I think this policy of multiplication of the job in the country should be stopped and it is high time that we veto any item of expenditure on this account I will briefly say one example. When the present Census Commissioner had no work to do and when he has to be given a job at a time for some months he was made the Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* He was also the Census Commissioner.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I respectfully say that he was not.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* That was done at a time when the department was first organised and when we introduce the grain purchase scheme. At that time one officer could not cope with the work and he wanted an assistant and it was later on. Later on when the department settled to work and the director wanted only a personal assistant and to economise expenditure the Deputy was taken away and a personal assistant on lesser pay was given, so that he may help the Director more intimately as an officer. There was nothing arbitrary in that procedure.

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Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I never contradict the inescapable arguments of the Hon'ble Secretary to Government. *Prima face* I think the explanation is not satisfactory. That particular person went away when he was appointed as Joint Secretary.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* He did not go as Joint Secretary from the Food Department. When the facts are wrong how can you build a theory upon it?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Mr. P. Narayana Menon, a successful Judicial Officer was shunted on to the food department because there was no job for him, and he was there for one and half month.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Again the member is wrong, because that was done at a time when we had to purchase the Kole crops. Not only Mr. Narayana Menon but also Additional Tahsildars and Additional Supply Officers were also appointed. And now for the Viruppu crops we may have to enlarge the staff. Again the Varthu-vitha crop in the Chittur Taluk was about to be harvested we had to appoint a new officer. So to avoid the illicit export of paddy from the State we have to appoint officers. From time to time as the harvesting season we have to concentrate and we have to give the department a larger staff. That is how Mr. Narayana Menon came to be appointed for a short time and there is nothing arbitrary in these things. The Honourable Member reads into things that are not there.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I am very glad that one more job is to be given to the person. Similarly, it is found in every department. A very successful administrator of the Anchal and Registration Department was immediately converted into a Judicial Officer. Immediately after that he reverts to the old post. What exactly is behind the policy of the Government? My submission to this House is that this sort of meaningless, absolutely absurd appointments, if the word is unparliamentary, I will withdraw after having said it, should as far as possible be minimised. Otherwise, people will see to have any respect for the Government.

Finally, with regard to the Food Department, again, what exactly is the funny way? By the appointment of the present Director of Food Supplies, I say having read in the beginning of the order, when the previous incumbent was appointed, that because of the onerous duties of the officer and the vast amount of work involved—mind you, there was no personal assistant his pay will be Rs. 700. The work has increased 100 times now and here is a man who can do the same thing for Rs. 450. I am not for a moment arguing that the present incubment should be given more. What I submit is that this sort of action on the part of Government has been going on for the last so many years.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I take this opportunity to offer a few remarks on the remarks made about the Supply department. I must thank the Honourable Members of this House for the kind word of appreciation expressed on the floor of this House on the working of the department and also for the helpful suggestions put forward by them in various directions. In the short time at my disposal I shall try to anwser the various points carefully and deal with them in and detail when the cut-motions are moved. I will first take up rice. It can be considered under two chief heads, *viz.*, supply and distribution in considering the question of supply we can divide rice into two categories the home-milled rice and imported rice. I think there was little criticism with respect to imported rice. Government have used their best endeavours to secure rice. As regards imports of food-stuffs, the criticism was by Mr. Ismail Sait that we were importing unnecesssarily some large quantities of food grains. As the Secretary pointed out, it was not that this quantity was thrust upon us. We decided to import it after great deliberation and thinking that it would be of use in these days of scarcity of food-stuffs. I can also inform the House that there is not so much difficulty to dispose of this stock as was suggested. There are people who are ready to take them. But we are not giving it, because we think it will supplement the meagre rise in ration now given. If this is so it may be of some use to the people of the country.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When the food-stuffs come, do the Health Officers inspect them?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* They are inspected before they are despatched by the purchasing agents. The same thing comes here. What is purchased there comes here.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Issa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Is there any difficulty to dispose of them?

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Government do not think that there is any difficulty to dispose of them.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Issa Sait *(Mattancheri):* How much is the present stock?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* We cannot discolose it.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When the ordinary merchants used to bring the goods, complaints come. They have sometimes been inspected and absolutely condemned and they were not allowed to sell them. I am now saying how you have taken the place of merchants and when such complaints come, the Health Officers must inspect and see that they are fit for food.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There has been no complaint.

Then I come to the commandeering of home grown paddy.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Have you disposed of all the stock that you have got of the gram-flour.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* How much of it have you disposed of?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it such an objectionable thing?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* This is an article of food that can also be sold by merchants, so we do not want to disclose of the stock at present.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Can you assure that you can dispose of this stock without any loss on that account?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* There won't be any loss on that account. Government are aware that this stuff last for some time.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Issa Sait *(Mattancheri):* How long will this stuff last?

Rama Varmha Tampuram *(Secretary to Government):* It depends upon the weather. If it is dry weather it will last for a long time and if it is damp, it is spoiled soon.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* As regards the flat rate suggested, on the purchasing price of paddy Mr. Salem's suggestion is that a particular quantitly should be fixed with reference to the extent of land cultivated so that the commandeering of all available surplus will be assured. That will work hardship on the cultivators in several ways. The quantity that a cultivator can spare will depend upon the yield, the quantity required for the expenses of cultivation and that required for his maintenance and it is the surplus alone that he can spare for other purposes. If we proceed upn mere acreage, it will not be sure guide. I may add that a similar system was tried elsewhere and it was found to be not successful.

As regards the commandeering, it was said some of the tenants have been put to difficulties, in regard to the payment of Pattam in kind. The instructions to the grain purchasing officers are that the paddy of the tenant need be compulsarily taken only if the Jenmi does not want it, ie, with the consent of the Jenmi. In future also we will give similar instructions as regards the payment of pattam by the tenant to the Jenmi. If the tenant wishes to pay it in kind we do not stand in the way. If he does not want to pay it in kind, we will take it. Only with the consent of the Jenmi, tenant will be cempelled to sell it.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know what is the system in Travancore for the purpose of commandeering paddy.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* In Travancore, it was per acre. They considerably modified it afterwards.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Because we are jointly getting the quottas and we are being supplied by the Government of India also on a joint basis I don't think we can afford to have two different systems even in the matter of commandeering.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There is no difficulty for that. Comparatively we have secured a larger amount of paddy here than in Travancore.

Then it was suggested that more paddy should be set apart for the payment of wages to the labourers. Now the instructions are where it is the custom to pay wages in kind certain allowances may be made for payment of wages in kind.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Full allowance.

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Diector of Food Supplies)* : Full allowance for what is being paid according to customs. If we increase that rate, there will be less paddy to purchase.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ജെ. തോമാസ് : അതു മാത്രമല്ല അതിലുള്ള കായ്യം. ലേബറേഴ്സിന്റെ ശരിയായ ഭക്ഷണം കൊടുത്താലെ അവക്ക് പണിയെടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളു. എന്തു കൊണ്ടെന്നാൽ ശരിക്കു ഭക്ഷണം കൊടുത്താൽ മാത്രമേ പണിയെടുക്കുവാൻ ശക്തിയുണ്ടാകയുള്ളു. അര യൂണിറ്റം കാൽ യൂണിറ്റം മറ്റം കൊടുത്താൽ അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു് പണിയെടുപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : It will be supplemented by the payment of money and by purchasing dry grains.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : That is not it. The point is this. These labourers will say "we want so much paddy" The difficulty is this. A Pulaya comes and works the whole day. He has to find his rice and bring it elsewhere. "So may landlords give them the paddy or rice that they require. Now the question is we have ration, reduced ration. If we ask these people to work at the reduced ration, no food will grow. That is the difficulty. These people should be given the full ration and something to attract them. If you give them only the ration basis that is all right. But I am on the customary basis.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : Payment is made mostly according to the scale that was being paid before.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : There is that happy word "Mostly" let us come to some fixed position. If a labourer engaged by me used to be paid two Edangazhies will you make provision for two Edangazhies to be paid till the next harvest time ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : Suppose excessive amount was being paid according to custom.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ജെ. തോമാസ് : ഞാൻ അതു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു പറയുന്നതു് എന്താണെന്നു വെച്ചാൽ ഏതാണ്ടു് ഒരു ആയിരപ്പറക്കു നിലത്തോളം കൂലിക്കാരെ ശരിക്കു കിട്ടാഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു് തക്ക സമയത്തു പണിയെടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എട്ടു രൂപവരെ ഞാറിനു വില കൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Please don't play the game of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : Then as regards distribution, one chief point brought forward was that there was delay in the issue of ration cards. We have to deal with a large number of cards every day and all possible steps are being taken to expedite the issue of cards. Recently the number of Field Officers has been almost doubled to deal with this.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : There are both advantages and disadvantages in that.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: കുറെ ആളുകളെ വഞ്ചിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നേയുള്ളു. ഇങ്ങിനെ വഞ്ചിപ്പിച്ചു വഞ്ചിപ്പിച്ചു സ്റ്റെയിറ്റിലെ പണം മുഴവൻ ചിലവു ചെയ്താൽകൂടി വിജയകരമാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എത്ര ഫീൽഡ് ആഫീസർമാരെ വഞ്ചിപ്പിച്ചാലും അതുകൊണ്ടൊന്നും യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. ഒരു കാർഡ് നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടവനു് അന്നു് അരി മേടിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിനു വല്ല മാർഗ്ഗവും കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുമോ എന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. പറമ്പിൽ വേലയെടുക്കുന്നവക്കെങ്കിലും ശരിക്കു ഭക്ഷണം കൊടുത്താൽ കൊള്ളാം. അതു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് അതിനു ശരിക്കു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാതെയിരുന്നാൽ പറമ്പിലും പാടത്തും കൃഷിയും മറ്റു യാതൊരു പ്രയത്നങ്ങളും നടക്കുകയില്ല. ഇതൊന്നു ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചാൽ വളരെ നല്ലതാണെന്നു ബുദ്ധിയുള്ളവക്കെല്ലാവക്കും ചിന്തിച്ചാൽ അറിയാം. ആഴക്കും ഒഴക്കും അരിവീതം കൊടുത്താൽ തുമ്പയെടുത്തു കിളക്കുന്നവർ അതു് ഇട്ടും കൊണ്ടു പോകും. ഇതൊന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കണം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു്. ഇതൊന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കണം.

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Then the other point raised was that the paddy issued was germinated and of bad quality. There is some truth in that. It so happened that when the Kole crop was being harvested there was incessent rain and we were forced to purchase that paddy. Rain continued for some days. It was not possible to take the paddy to the mills and we had to issue it as paddy.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* May I know from the Director as to how he got this germinated paddy ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* That is what he replied.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* A portion of the paddy was so much damaged that we had to incur 25 per cent loss. The cultivators also could not be blamed. The harvested paddy had to be collected in open places without any convenience for thrashing. At the time of the purchase it was thought that there would be at least some sunshine occasionally and that we would be able to convert a portion at least into rice. A major portion had to be issued as paddy. Government also suffered much. That was due to circumstances over which we had absolutely no control.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know from the Director why you are levying 2 annas for the lost card. A man, if he loses a card, loses 2 annas.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The Hon'ble Member for Nellayi was commenting on the floor of this House that the Rationing Advisory Bodies are not functioning. Detailed rules are being framed. It is not correct to say that our officers do not know why these committees exist. Instructions have been issued that their advice should be taken. In some places advice is being received.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Just like visitors to these hospitals?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No, I may say that I have personally told my officers that wherever there are difficulties they should approach these gentlemen and get their help. Written instructions are also given. We are framing rules as to when the meeting is to be summoned and by whom it is to be summoned. The idea of the Government is to make it effective and useful and not to have it for a mere show.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Intentions are excellent.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It will be put into practice also.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, Sir, as regards food grains, according to the returns—

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I am coming to that. The Hon'ble Member for Cranganur made a loud complaint about certain restrictions we have imposed upon the import of pulses and food grains. There is a notification that rice, paddy, wheat, millets, pulses, paper, matches and sugar when imported should not be sold without our permission. The object of this restriction is whenever Government want to commandeer certain articles it was found from experience that as soon as they come to the market they went underground. So, it was thought that if such a restriction was insisted upon Government could easily commandeer or deal with any article which they thought was scarce in the market. There is already prohibition for export. The criticism is that when there is prohibition for export, where is the necessity for any further restriction? The necessity is this. Sales within the State are allowed. It was found sometimes that bogus sales are entered in the accounts. The whole stock then went underground. It was difficult for us to find where it went. Somehow the stock was not there. So it was suggested that as soon as the stock arrived information should be given to us about it. In regard to giving of permits and sanctions, there has not been any delay at all. In the course of three days orders are being issued.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* That is sufficiently long delay in these matters. We must find out a remedy.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* A remedy has been found. As a result of representations by the Chamber of Commerce it has been ordered that if within seven days no orders were received they can deal with that article in the way they like.

Another complaint was that it was difficult to furnish the particulars required in some of the trade returns, *viz.*, place from which they brought, the price at which they bought, etc. Government have ordered that this information need not be furnished, so that now there is no cause for complaint.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Supposing after 7 days you do not say one way or the other. Are they allowed to export?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: For export another permit is necessary.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Everyone is ordered to send in a return at the end of every week or two weeks. If they are sending the returns how can the stock go underground. So that if A sells to B or B to C if the stock is not seen in the return of A it will be seen in the return of B. There can be no case of goods going underground.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I shall explain. Suppose as soon as the stock arrived Government wanted to purchase the stock. If you wait till the weekly return, the weekly return will sometimes show a nil balance. It might have gone into the hands of a number of people. It will be difficult for the Government to find out where it has gone.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: It does not require any great intelligence to understand that it is so.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Then there was a complaint that we do not allow pulses to be exported, and that the pulses are getting spoiled and deteriorated. As has been already explained one reason for the accumulation seems to be these things are being sold at a very high rate. Maida flour which was being sold in the market at rates varying from 120 to Rs. 140 is being sold in our shops at the rate of Rs. 34 and odd. As soon as we began to sell, the price in the market came down. One reason for the accumulation of stock is that prices went up and merchants would not part with the goods for any price prevailing before. But as regards stuff that has become deteriorated, Government will consider whether it can be allowed to be exported. This has to be done with caution. Otherwise there will be this difficulty. When merchants raise the prices unduly to profiteer there will be accumulation and consequent deterioration of stock and Government will be forced to give permission for export. That would be moving in a vicious circle. This is a situation which has been brought about by the merchants themselves.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ് ഇബ്രയീൽ ഹാജി ഇസ്സാ സേട്ട: ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്ന്, ഒരാളക്കള്ളിൽ വില്ക്കണം എന്ന പറയുന്ന ചരക്കുകൾ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽ വില്ക്കാതെ വെച്ച് ചീത്തയാക്കണമെന്ന് ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എ. പോൾ: ഇല്ല.

ഖാൻസാഹിബ് ഇബ്രയീൽ ഹാജി ഇസ്സാ സേട്ട്: അങ്ങിനെ വില്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ ചീത്തയായി പോകാവുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾക്ക് എക്സ്പോർട്ട് (Export permit) കൊടുത്തുകൂടെ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. നാരായണമേനോൻ: അങ്ങിനെ കൊടുത്തുകൂടാ എങ്കിൽ കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തു വില്പന നടത്തുവാൻ അനുവദിക്കരുതെ ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Government have prohibited only export of articles which will be wanted here.

Now I shall come to fish. There has been some complaint that we have been imposing unnecessarily a ban on fish. We are not imposing a complete ban. Now the quantity of fish caught is comparatively low for some reason or other. Travancore imposed a ban. British Malabar has imposed a ban. This is one reason why we are not having sufficient quantity of fish. Of course there are some varieties of fish which are not usually eaten here. There quantity its not very large. They are sent out in a dried form. We have been sending 60 per cent of that stock. Lest there be a complaint that we suddenly put a ban, we only put a control at first. Even after the ban was imposed almost 80 per cent of dried fish was allowed to be sent. Then we reduced the quantity to be sent out. Now we are considering to make arrangements to send dried fish to other parts of the State. In Trichur and Talappalli there are demands for dried fish. We are making arrangements to send the surplus quantity of stock to those places.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ഈ സർപ്ലസ്സ് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ എന്താണെന്നറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ഇവിടെ ചിലവാകാത്ത സാധനം വെറുതെ ചീത്തയാക്കികളയാതെ അതു പുറത്തേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് കല്പന കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് പറയുന്നതു്. അതിലേക്ക് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി വെച്ചു വേണ്ട അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയാൽ അതിന്റെ ഗുണദോഷം അറി

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യാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഫ്രഷ് മണിക്കൂറും വെള്ളത്തിൽ കിടന്നു വീർത്തുമിച്ചു പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുന്ന ഈ സാധനം പുറത്തേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനുള്ള പെർമിറ്റ് കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഏർപ്പാട് ചെയ്യണം.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Government have enquired and they know the varieties of fish that are consumed here. It is in accordance with that that we are regulating their export.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: The quantity is not sufficient. People who have been accustomed to eat fish are undergoing very great difficulty for getting it.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Then there is another complaint with regard to permits, and that is that there is delay in the issue of permits. Now when permits are applied, enquiries have to be made. It has been repeatedly seen that applications are made for export of large quantities, say a thousand tons. When we go and enquire, actually there will be only 500 tons. If you take the figures in the application as correct and if you allow to export 60 per cent we will be thinking that 400 tons are available for consumption here which will not be the case if the figures relating to stock are exaggerated. When an application is received in each case we have to verify whether that stock is ready and, if not, what is the stock. It is only after ascertaining that, we can issue permit. Why not a larger period be given for the permit, that is another question. We find from experience that if a larger period, say a month is fixed, what is sometimes done is, instead of transporting the quantity covered by the permit several jorneys are performed and three times the quantity will be exported.

Mr. K. Govinda Pai *(Nominated)*: No boat can leave unless the field officer enters that so much quantity is exported. How can it be taken three times?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: It is clandestinely taken. If one month is allowed sometimes 350 tons will be imported under cover of that permit instead of only 100 tons.

Then as regards sugar, we have been allowed only a very small quota. We have made repeated requests to the Government of India to increase our quota. There is every likelihood of our getting a larger supply in the future a more equitable scheme of distribution has been submitted to Government and in the hope of getting a larger quantity we have delayed that scheme coming into practical operation. Recently the Rationing Advisor to the Government of India, Mr. Kerby, was here and he found that the quantity of sugar allowed to us was very meagre. He wired to the Government of India to supply us more immediately. We hope a substantial increase in the supply will be possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether the Government is aware of the total quantity of sugar production in India. Sometimes sugar is produced and kept for three years. It was told in the last meeting that in Behar and other places there were immense quantities 64,000 tons or so in stock. So I am asking have you got the satistics relating to the production of sugar? I am not referring to the quota available.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Diector of Food Supplies)*: The quota is given by the Sugar Controller of India.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What I am asking is is there information in the hands of the Government as to the total quantity of sugar available in India.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: The Director of Food Supplies cannot waste his time like this. Let it be 24 crores. The Government of India will be allowing a quota. That is all.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Hon'ble President, Madam, I do not wish to take too much of the time of the House and after all there is not much time left. The most important activity of the Government apart from the War activities is the exertions with regard to the supply of essential needs of the community, food and clothes, and the Government are really glad to note that with regard to the Department of Food, there has been generally a very good reception on the part of the non-official block of this House. We heard also a few stray criticisms from this side or that side and especially in the last hour or two. Apart from that, on the whole, there has been a very good general reception of the working of the rationing system in this State and we are particularly proud and glad of that for more than one reason. For one thing, it gives us the satisfaction that what the Government have done has been more or less a great success. And for another thing, not less important reason, this might

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be taken as a lead, we all hope, for the rest of India to follow, if the non-official House endorsed after a critical examination that the way in which the rationing scheme has been working here has been a success. That will surely be a far greater inducement for the bigger cities in India and for the larger surplus Provinces to follow us and if they do, that more than anything else will alleviate our distress.

With regard to the clothes, as the Diwan President explained in his opening speech, we expect substantial quantities of standard cloth from Bombay very soon and in the next quarter also we expect equally substantial quantities and we expect that it should be possible to distribute a minimum of 3 yards of standard cloth to every one in the State.

The Hon'ble Member for Nellayi referred to one point in the forenoon and that was how the ration was so low when considering that we have got about 7 months' supply and a substantial quantity of rice and dry grains. From the very outset, the Government will be too glad to explain the position fully now. Our requirements of rice for seven months have been fixed on the average individual need of 231 lbs. of rice, dry rice, according to the Madras standard. Now if that standard is followed, an individual gets per day only a little less than 1/3 of an edangazhi. It is on that basis that we have said that our needs for about 7 months will be met by home production. And even here, the Hon'ble Members will note that we do not get all the rice so to say according to the rice surplus to this standard from the land-owners. Land-owners are given a more or less fairly liberal quantity. They are allowed to keep what they want for their home needs and they are also allowed to keep something very liberally for the cooly wages and only what is left do we get. Therefore, if we have got 7 months supply, even according to this very meagre calculation, this meagre rate of less than 1/3 edangazhi per day, we actually get into our hands only probably half of that and when our requirements of rice are not also fully met by imports from outside, naturally the ration has to go further down. And that is the reason why there is this apparent anomaly so to say in the scheme.

Then just another point. The Hon'ble Members should realise that we are purchasing and distributing rice and dry grains to the value of about 4·34 crores of rupees. That will be about very nearly 3 times the annual revenues of the State. And this one figure should be able to give the Members an idea of the enormous work that the Department has to do. With this borne in mind, when the Hon'ble Members look into the list of appointments made in this Department, the Hon'ble Members will realise whether it can be said that it is over staffed.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Panters)*: Certainly not.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The entire grain purchase and distribution for the whole State is completely in the hands of the Government. Not only they have to purchase the grains, but they have also to see that not a grain of it goes outside the State. So great is the work that it cannot be said 700 officers are too much.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: If necessary, you may increase the staff. We only say that the people should not be put to difficulties.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I do not think anybody made the complaint that if was over-staffed.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes, that complaint was raised. The Hon'ble Member was not present then.

Then there was another point outside the Food Department. There were general observations from several sides of the House that the Government have been selecting officers too often from among the members of this House. Well, that has not been a practice that was newly started. Two of the distinguished Judges who adorn the present High Court have been non-official members of this House. One of the three important District Judges has been a non-official member of this House. The Hon'ble Advocate-General who sits behind me and who is of such immense help to us was a member on the other side of the House.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I say the sitting members of the House should not be selected for appointment, normally. The distinguished personalities to whom you refer may be exceptions rather than the rule. I do not object to useful members of this House being drafted to service when there is absolute necessity.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Now, Madam, the point that was at the bottom of this question was that the independence of the House is affected. That criticism will stand whether the members that are selected are members sitting in this House at

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the time of their selection, or are those who had vacated their seats a few months ago. That is behind the criticism. It is not that the efficiency of the House has been affected. Why should the Hon'ble Member think that equally efficient members can't come into the House? Is the State so dearth of suitable and capable hands? The other is the more relevant criticism, that the independence of the House is affected.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: We all know that members who have been doing good work in Parliament had been selected for holding offices. That is usual. We never stand against that principle The best men available in the State should be put in charge of the offices.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I thought it my duty to make clear the attitude that the Government adopted in such an important matter like this when it is alleged that we are doing a thing to under-mine the independence and the dignity of the House. It is certainly the duty of the Government to take note of it and explain what we think about it. It is from that point of view that I say that this is not the first time that we are doing this and we will have to do it for more reasons than one. It often happens that the more distinguished members of the community come to this House. I suppose that constituencies do not generally elect persons without looking into their character or their efficiency. And when that is the case, when we get the select and choicest people of the country in this House, can it be said that the Government should completely deny them offices? That is the very reason that we have been doing it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Then do it with a vengeance. That is the recommendation of the House.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: After that, there is one point about Industries. I do not know why some Hon'ble Members have been repeatedly urging that this Government are blind to Industrial Developments, or to starting of new industries. Not in the least. If the Hon'ble Members had only heard what the Diwan President spoke on that subject yesterday morning, they could very well have noted that several new industries are being started.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: We are referring to other industries.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: There is no purpose in starting industries unless the ground is completely cleared. Only we want to know where we stand, only substantial industrialists should come forward to take up industries, the Government have more than once stated in public that they will only be far far too glad to extend all their co-operation and help in starting industries. Every time an industrialist has come forward with a tangible, or at least a practicable scheme, in every such case, the Government have extended their co-operation and have done everything possible to help them. If any industrialists come forward, we shall be only too glad to help them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: We want to know whether the Government is prepared to launch into the matter themselves. That is the point. Not merely helping others to start industries.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: On their own account. Yes. They are willing and they will go forward with schemes of industrialisation.

Then one word about surplus. That is a usual criticism that I have heard in this House. I am not, personally, one who is shy of a bit of a budget surplus. Our State is a small State and our resources are limited. Our taxation capabilities are not so elastic as of the Government of India or of a major province like Bombay, Madras, or Bengal. Naturally we have to be cautious. Now what would have been our position if we had not built up a surplus at this time when we have to get so much money to carry on this grain purchase on such a large scale. Only we have to go to these hard-headed bankers if we had no credit at our disposal. Can the Hon'ble Members realise the difficulties to which any Government will be put to. Even in Europe Governments have come and gone because of financial muddles (*Hear, hear*). And loans have won Governments to their sides in international wars. When such is the case in Europe how can the Hon'ble Members here find fault with us for having a few lakhs of surplus in a year as if an accumulated surplus has done so much damage.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Do the Government expect the proposed loan to be subscribed?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: What loan to be subscribed?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: The loan that is to be raised.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* There is no reference at all to the raising of the loan in this.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* A loan is proposed to be raised. Is it the view of the Government that it will be subscribed or not subscribed. There is some provision for underwriters.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I am very sorry, Hon'ble President, that such a question should come from the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* What I want to know is what will our position be in such a rich and prosperous country like Cochin. Will it be easy to find money in the market? I want to know the view of the Government. You have only to come forward with the demand.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes, we are sure that our loan will in no time be over-subscribed. We are sure of that and it is because of our good credit.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the question of under-writers. That has not arisen in this House for discussion.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I am not going to refer to that question however much I am tracked on to it. I am only on the point of that little bit of surplus. In a small State like this, it is not going to do any harm. On the other hand it is going to do a great deal of good in times of emergency like these. Therefore, if we have a surplus budget, it is really a matter for congratulation and not a matter for condolence.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Certainly.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Not a word about responsible Government.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* While the Diwan President himself has made a most solemn statement with regard to responsible government, I think it would be presumptuous on my part to try to add anything to it.

Two points more, one with regard to the appointment of Muslims in the service. It is rather uncharitable for such a remark to come, more especially from the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri who knows more about what the Government have done for Muslims than anybody else in this House.

One more point, regarding the educational concessions given to the Children and dependents of officers who serve in the War. Of course, the question whether the relatives also should be given concessions over and above the children was considered at great detail. One of the difficulties was of course we never knew what the financial position would be if we granted the extension, but apart from that, that was not the main thing. The other point was here it might be rather difficult to ascertain definitely the nearest relations, so to say. It is not like a case where the Makkathayam law is followed uniformly, for example in Madras and elsewhere, there is only one law with regard to inheritance, although among the Muslims and Hindus, the law varies, there is not so much conflict there as is here. And we thought it will lead to a great number of complaints and petitions and things like that and we left it in the secure position that we have taken up now. But we do not intend to stop there, we can review the position later.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* According to the usual practice, the Finance Member has to wind up the proceedings. As many as 23 Hon'ble Members of this House have participated in the general discussions and all of them have given us very many valuable suggestions, suggestions and criticism of various kinds, some of them very amusing, most of them very constructive and none destructive. We appreciate every one of those criticisms and every one of them has been noted for future guidance. We will try to implement as many of them as possible in our future dealings, but I must make special emphasis on one or two points which according to me, from a budgetary point of view, deserve special attention. One is that the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri Mr. Ezhuthassan was pleased to say that from a perusal of the budgetary figures of a large number of years, there were huge variations from the budgetary figures and the actuals realised and from that he concluded that we were over-estimating and under-estimating our transactions or that we do not know the art of budgetting. I have got a typed copy of his statement before me. I must point out to the Hon'ble House that, that statement won't bear scrutiny. For example take the budget of 1116. In that year we budgetted for a surplus of five lakhs fifty-two thousand rupees and our actual surplus was 2·04. I suppose there is no violent variation there. We have almost kept to our anticipations.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I was saying that it was under-estimating receipts and occasionally a case of over-estimating expenditure.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* It was from the huge surplus realised in 1117 and expected to be realised in 1118 and also budgetted for 1119, which he was charitable enough to say was pardonable because of the unusual conditions, of the times, that he rushed up to that statement. I just want to point out how these figures stand from that comparison alone. In 1115 we budgetted for a surplus of 5·06 lakhs and that year our actuals were 2·77. In 1114 we budgetted for 3·30 lakhs and the actual surplus was 1·82 lakhs.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* When I point out that my point has not been met, what is the meaning of going on the old track? I was deliberately saying with facts and figures before me that it was invariably a case of under-estimating and occasionally a case of over-estimating expenditure.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Between the actuals and the forecast, the difference is seen to be small.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It has always been a case of under-estimating receipts and over-estimating expenditure.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Anyway I am not going to pursue that point further. The figures budgetted and the actuals realised would go to show that we have not been far wrong in budgetting our receipts and expenditure, nor do we think that we are not unaware of the art of budgetting. In fact, if there have been any errors in budgetting..

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It may be one or the other.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* On a point of order, when a member is standing up and speaking, I think it is consonant with the usual practice to allow him to speak.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The great parliamentarian the Planter Member is, I am sorry these observations are made.

Panel Chairman: The Finance Member will proceed.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I may be allowed to continue uninterrupted. I am going to touch upon another point also which Mr. Ezhuthassan referred to. I believe he will give me a patient hearing. From the speech of the Hon'ble Member, it would appear that we are spending all our revenues on establishments and their paraphernalia.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* High salaries and other items for running the show.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* That is what I am going to refer. I am going to concur with you. If it is a question of running the show, I mean to say, running the administration of Cochin, I beg to submit to this House that not only a crore is to be spent, but the whole budgetted amount of over 166 lakhs of rupees is for running the administration of Cochin. Why stop at 100 lakhs? I go a step further and say we are budgetting over 166 lakhs of rupees for running the administration of Cochin. The point is any casual listener of the speech would go with the impression that the administration, that is to say, the salaries and the establishments in Cochin eat up all the revenues and that the Government of Cochin are spending only very little on the amenities pertaining to the people of Cochin. My point is only to disabuse the minds of others on this particular point. And as a matter of fact I worked out the figures and I found that the establishment costs of Cochin, let alone the unusual circumstances of the abnormal times prevailing now, are not very heavy. They compare very favourably with administrations obtaining elsewhere. Our establishment charges are quite in proportion or much below in proportion to other Governments.

The other point I want to touch upon is that adverted to by Mr. Krishna Menon. It has been pointed out that there is a very great disproportion between the votable and non-votable items of expenditure and that we are increasing the proportion of non-votable items. This is not correct. In 1111 out of the budget total of 97·84 lakhs, 53·36 lakhs were alone voted. In 1113, that is after the Government of Cochin Act, came into force, out of a total budgetted amount of 98·77 lakhs, 52·55 lakhs were voted. Now out of a total of 166 lakhs of rupees, over Rs. 100 lakhs are submitted to the vote of this House. It is not fair to say that we are increasing year by year the non-votable items of expenditure. In fact from the representations given by the Hon'ble Members of the Finance Committee, this year we have made very large items of

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expenditure votable, which were hitherto non-votable. About 12 lakhs of rupees were made votable. We do not feel shy at all to bring our expenditure for the vote of this House. You have been liberally passing over demands. Why should we not present our needs to you when we have our case to ask for additional allotments for needs that are most indispensable? We always want to go with you. That is our idea. Only you should try to understand the Government's position and try as usual to co-operate with us. That is all, Madam, that I have got to speak. I thank you all once more.

The House rose for the day at 5-25 p.m.

N. S. RADHAKRISHNA SARMA

Secretary to the Council

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